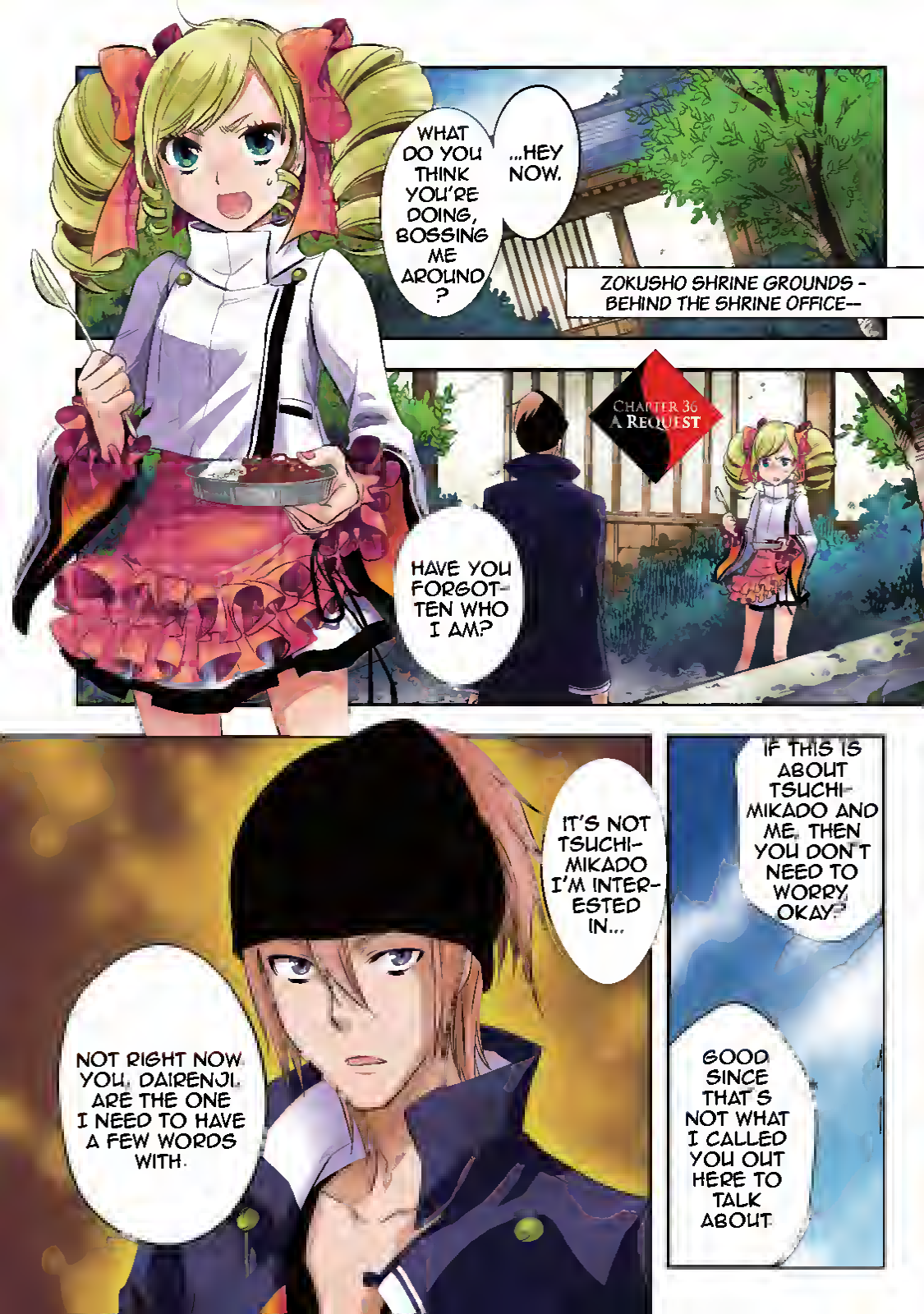
TOKYO RAVENS

8

STORY BY
KOUHEI AZANO

ART BY
ATSUSHI SUZUMI

CHARACTER DESIGN BY
SUMIHEI


...HEY NOW.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BOSSING ME AROUND?
ZOKUSHO SHRINE GROUNDS - BEHIND THE SHRINE OFFICE--
CHAPTER 36
A REQUEST
HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN WHO I AM?
IF THIS IS ABOUT TSUCHI-MIKADO AND ME, THEN YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY, OKAY?
GOOD SINCE THAT'S NOT WHAT I CALLED YOU OUT HERE TO TALK ABOUT.
IT'S NOT TSUCHI-MIKADO I'M INTER-ESTED IN...
NOT RIGHT NOW. YOU, DAIRENJI, ARE THE ONE I NEED TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH.

TOKYO RAVENS
STORY: KOUHEI AZANO ART: ATSUSHI SUZUMI CHARACTER DESIGN: SUMIHEI
CHAPTER 36
A REQUEST

TOKYO RAVENS

STORY: KOUHEI AZANO ART: ATSUSHI SUZUMI CHARACTER DESIGN: SUMIHEI

Chapter 36
A Request

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HUH
はっ
WHOA, WAIT A SECOND...
A FEW WORDS WITH ME?
WHAT ?!
I... I really...
...have always...!!!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME OR SOMETHING?
Eeeek!
NOPE! NOPE, NOPE, NOPE!
W-W-WAIT! WAIT! YOU'RE SERI-OUSLY--?!
...
YIKES
YIKES

...OH YEAH.
...
SHAKY
C'MON, KNOW YOUR PLACE!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU ISN'T FIT FOR ME!
SHAKY
SHAKY
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!
CURRY
AAGHH
YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF EATING, HUH?
GO AHEAD AND FINISH.
I ate already.
...?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S STILL SORT OF A CONFES-SION...
RELAX, I'M NOT HERE TO CONFESS MY LOVE TO YOU OR ANYTHING.
HM?
...OH, SORRY.
は は
OOOH
OOOH

BE-CAUSE YOU'RE STARTING TO CREEP ME OUT...
UMM...? SERIOUSLY? WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
DAIRENJI.
SO I MIGHT AS WELL JUST SPIT IT ALL OUT...
MUMBLE
I GUESS THIS ISN'T GETTING US ANY-WHERE.
...HRM, WELL...
MUMBLE
CAN YOU TELL JUST WHAT KIND OF WOUND IT WAS?
W-WELL, YEAH. SO WHAT?
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD BY NOW THAT I HAVE A CERTAIN SPIRITUAL WOUND, RIGHT?
?
...
STARE

SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA.
I SEE.
WELL, I GUESS YOU *HAVE* HAD YOUR POWERS RESTRICTED.
OR MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT HARUTORA'S OLD MAN'S SEAL IS TOO GOOD ...
AND I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED, EITHER.
HMPH...
GRR
HEY...
THINK YOU COULD JUST GET ON WITH IT ALREADY ?
YOU'RE TALKING IN CIRCLES.
ALL RIGHT THEN.
I GUESS IT'D BE FASTER JUST TO SHOW YOU.
SWISH
HOW 'BOUT IF I DO THIS?
?

FIRST SEAL...
...RELEASE!
CRAAAACK
?!
WHA--?!
BOOOM

HAH...
I GUESS THAT WASN'T SO BAD...
BZZT
WOOSH
WWOOSH
IS THIS... AN OGRE SPIRIT?
KRK
NGH...
!!
...PHASE 3...
YOU'RE A HALF-OGRE...?
I'D LOVE TO TRANSFORM A BIT MORE SMOOTHLY, BUT...
...GUESS THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR ANOTHER DAY.

IS THIS... AN OGRE SPIRIT?
KRK
NGH...
!!
WOOSH

WOOSH
HAH...
I GUESS THAT WASN'T SO BAD...
BZZT
...
...PHASE 3...
YOU'RE A HALF-OGRE...?
I'D LOVE TO TRANSFORM A BIT MORE SMOOTHLY, BUT...
...GUESS THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR ANOTHER DAY.

THIS OGRE...
BZZT
...DOES IT REMIND YOU OF ANYTHING?
BZZT

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT YOU TO SEE ISN'T THAT
SCRAPE
FLINCH

W-WHAT? OF COURSE NOT!
I FOCUS ON IMPERIAL MAGIC RESEARCH, YOU KNOW!
AND SPIRITUAL DISASTERS ARE A COMPLETELY UNIQUE DISCIPLINE.
WHY WOULD I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
WELL, NOW...
...I CAN THINK OF ONE VERY GOOD REASON WHY.
BZZT

FWOOSH
...
REBOOT.
NGH ...
CRACKLE
ALL RIGHT ...
...LET ME JUST SAY THIS STRAIGHT OUT.
WHAT'S YOUR "GOOD REASON" THEN?
... WHAT THE HELL ?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
HMM...
MUMBLE
LOOKS LIKE KEEPING THE TRANSFORMATION UP FOR LONG IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER ISSUE...
MUMBLE
SEE...
...I WAS POSSESSED BY THIS OGRE TWO YEARS AGO.
WHEN TOKYO WAS HIT WITH THE SPIRITUAL DISASTER TERRORIST ATTACK.
FLINCH
NOT JUST THAT, BUT...

...THIS OGRE IS THE ONE THE LEADER OF THE TERRORISTS CALLED DOWN INTO HIS EFFIGY.
IN THE END, THEY WENT TO PHASE 4 ...
...FELL INTO ALL SORTS OF PANDE-MONIUM ...
...AND DISHED OUT A SPIRITUAL DISASTER TO THE AREA.
AND, WELL, I JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE.
...
AND ... WELL ...
I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL RECENTLY, BUT MY PRIMARY ONMYO DOCTOR ...
...THAT IS, HARU-TORA'S FATHER ...
...WAS PRETTY HIGH UP IN THE MAGICAL INVESTIGA-TION DIVISION BEFORE ...
...AND KNEW A LOT OF THINGS THAT WERE NEVER MADE PUBLIC.
WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT IT AGAIN TODAY...
...HE WAS A BIT RE-LUCTANT, BUT HE TOLD ME ANYWAY.
HOW THE LEADER OF THAT TERRORIST ATTACK WAS...

...SHIDO DAI-RENJI.
THE FIRST-CLASS STATE ONMYOJI KNOWN AS THE "PRO-FESSOR"...
AND, SUZUKA DAIRENJI ...
....YOUR FATHER.
SHAKE
...
...I...
SHAKE
I AM...
SHAKE
SWISH
WELL.
DOWN TO BUSI-NESS.
LISTEN UP, DAI-RENJI.
SHAKE
SHAKE
...HUH?
THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON I'M HERE.

AND THAT'S TO WORK OUT A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU.
OF COURSE HARUTORA, NATSUME...
...KYOKO, AND TENMA WILL JOIN US, TOO.
A... ... PARTNER-SHIP?
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU KNOW, BUT...
...NATSUME IS BEING TARGETED BY YAKO DEVOTEES.
I DON'T EVEN NEED TO EXPLAIN WHY, RIGHT?
AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT'S HAPPENED THREE TIMES...
AND THE SPIRITUAL DISASTER THIS SPRING WAS WAY TOO SIMILAR TO THE ONE FROM TWO YEARS AGO.
WHICH MEANS ...

...SHIDO DAIRENJI, THE MAN BEHIND THE TERROR ATTACK FROM TWO YEARS AGO...
...WAS LIKELY A YAKO DEVOTEE, TOO.
RIGHT?
NA-TSUME'S ENEMIES ARE OUR ENEMIES, TOO.
BUT WE KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THEM.
AS IF THINGS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, WITH THIS LAST TERRORIST ATTACK...
...SOME-ONE EVEN STRANGER HAS SHOWED UP.
SOME-ONE STRANGE...?
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT LATER.
WE DON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH COMPARED TO THEM AND THEIR GROUP...
...BUT I CAN'T STAND BEING CHASED AROUND WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING.

...SO I'M ASKING YOU TO DO IT OUT OF SHEER KINDNESS.
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERY-THING YOU KNOW.
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING TO PAY YOU BACK THOUGH...
I'M NOT ASK-ING FOR ANYTHING IMPOSSI-BLE...
...JUST FOR YOUR HELP.
I'M BEGGING YOU.

FWOOSH
Gahaha
Ahaha
CHATTER
CHATTER
SIGH
...DO YOU...
HAAH

...KNOW ABOUT THE...
...TWIN HORN SYNDI-CATE?
BOOM!!
EVENING - KABUKICHO, SHINJUKU--
KABLAM
FWOOSH
FIDGET
WHOA!..
TWITCH
AN-OTHER FALSE ALARM...
Twinkl
KEEP OUT

IT SEEMS WE BROUGHT YOU OUT HERE FOR NOTHING, INDEPENDENT OFFICER KAGAMI.
THIS DIDN'T TURN OUT TO BE A CASE CONCERNING "D" AFTER ALL.
NO DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON THE OTHER END, EITHER.
NO DAMAGE ON THIS END.
WE'RE FINISHED HERE.
SLAM
HOWEVER, THIS OPERATION STILL TURNED OUT TO BE A SUCCESS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.
TEHE
...BUT IT SEEMS IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
WE'D RECEIVED INTEL THAT THIS WAS A HIDEOUT FOR THE REMNANTS OF THE TWIN HORN SYNDICATE...
...I'VE ALSO RECEIVED WORD FROM CHIEF AMAMI.
I THINK HE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DROP BY..
...AND VISIT SOMETIME.
TCH...

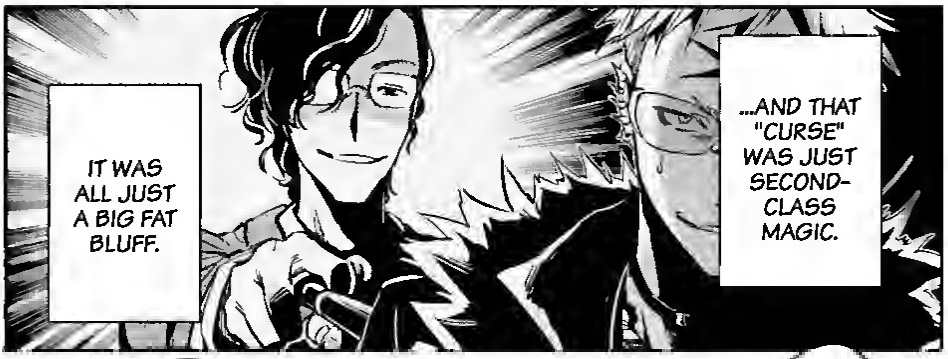
Ah!
WAIT, REIJI!
CLICK-CLACK
IF WE'RE FINISHED HERE, I'M OUT.
I'LL DRIVE YOU.
NO NEED.
TAP
SQUEEK
...
HEY, REIJI...
THIS ISN'T HOW YOU SAID IT WOULD BE.

...
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED SINCE YOU GOT THAT SCAR ON YOUR HEAD, REIJI...
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO TODAY, TOO.
...
...BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED ME...
YOU FINALLY BROUGHT ME OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...
2F
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
Hmph
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ALWAYS ...
...SO UN-FRIENDLY AND FOUL-MOUTHED.
...
AHH, WHAT A LETDOWN.
AHH, THIS IS SOOO BORING.
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
HOORAY!
TURN
OH
HM? IS IT FINAL-LY MY TURN?!
OH
COME HERE.
SHAVER ...
YOU'RE REALLY COCKY TOO, DESPITE YOURSELF--

WHACK
SLIDE
STOMP
WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YO--
CHATTER
"MASTER."
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, REIJI?!
M-MEANIE!
CHATTER
CHATTER

SWSHHH
HAH...
HAH...
はぁ...
W-WA!--!!
STOP KICKING!!
PLEASE STOP KICKING ME!
"MASTER" REIJI!
げしげしげしげし
THWACK THWACK THWACK THWACK
HEY, UH... MASTER REIJI?
YOU KNOW, THROWING AROUND THE HEAVY HITS LIKE THAT...
..YOU'D HAVE KILLED ANY NORMAL PERSON THAT WASN'T ME, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT YOU WON'T DIE, SO...?
スタスタスタスタ
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
...ARE YOU FEELING FRUSTRATED OR SOMETHING?
IS IT BECAUSE THE CASE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH "D"?
I KNEW IT DIDN'T FROM THE START.
THERE WASN'T ANY TASTY DISH TO LURE HIM THERE...
NOT LIKE THE LAST TIME HE BOTHERED TO SHOW HIS FACE.
AND PLUS...
IT'S EASIER FOR HIM TO RUN EVERYTHING FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.

ONCE THE RABBIT IS CAUGHT, THE HUNTING DOG IS NO LONGER NEEDED.
BUT AS LONG AS THE RABBIT LIVES, SO TOO DOES THE DOG.
AND WHEN THAT RABBIT TURNS OUT TO BE A FEROCIOUS BEAST, THE DOG'S CHAIN MUST BE LOOSENED...
...WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU.
HUH?
ME?
THANKS TO HIM SHOWING UP, THEY LIFTED THE OLD BAN AND I WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO SUMMON YOU.
SO THIS IS MY CHANCE TO STRENGTHEN MY HAND.
YEAH...
AND WHILE I'M AT IT, I STILL OWE THAT BASTARD PROFESSOR A THING OR TWO...
AFTER HE CORNERED ME, I MADE SURE TO CHECK REAL GOOD...


IT WAS ALL JUST A BIG FAT BLUFF.
...AND THAT "CURSE" WAS JUST SECOND-CLASS MAGIC.

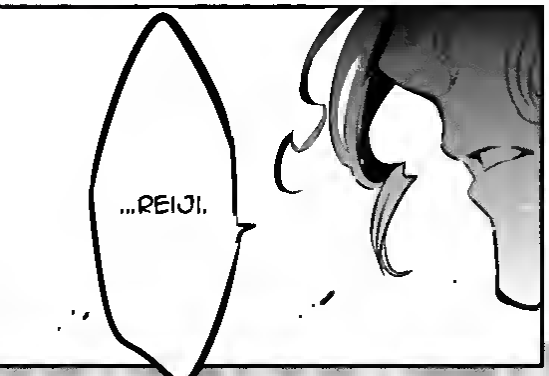
I'M JUST STARVING FOR REVENGE AFTER A TRICK LIKE THAT...
AND BESIDES, MY LITTLE PREY...
...MIGHT NOT BE "D" BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO GET A TASTE...

THERE AT ONMYO PREP...
IT'S NOT JUST THOSE KIDS. THE "PRODIGY" ALSO ENTERED THIS SPRING, I HEAR.
ALL AT THE WISHES OF THE TOP BRASS AT THE ONMYO AGENCY, TOO.
THEY SAY IT'S PUNISHMENT FOR THE LAST INCIDENT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE JUST ASKING FOR ANOTHER ONE...
THEY'VE PRACTICALLY GIVEN HER THE PERFECT PLACE TO CONTINUE HER RESEARCH.

...
IT'S MORE THAN A LITTLE SUSPI-CIOUS...
WHY WOULD THE ONMYO AGENCY LET THAT GUY'S DAUGHTER RESEARCH IMPERIAL MAGIC?
SHIDO DAIRENJI WAS BEHIND THE SPIRITUAL DISASTER TERRORIST ATTACK AND A YAKO DEVOTEE.
REIJI...
THIS SOUNDS FUN.
NOW THIS... THIS IS WHY I CHOSE YOU.
GASP
FLASH!
!!!
SCREEEEECH

THIS AGAIN ...
THE WORLD SURE HAS TURNED INTO A FUN PLACE, EH...?

BOOOM
A SPIR-ITUAL DISAS-TER...
IT'S A HUGE ONE, TOO.
THAT'S GOTTA BE AT LEAST A PHASE 2...
AND RIGHT ON TOP OF A SPIRIT PULSE... ONLY A MATTER OF TIME 'TIL IT HITS PHASE 3.


...REIJI.

SCREW THAT. I DON'T HAVE ANY OFFICIAL SUMMONS OR ANYTHING.
WE'RE GOING HOME.
SPIN
REIJI! LET'S CHECK IT OUT!
BOUNCE
うずっ
うずっ
BOUNCE

...A BIT WRONG?
ISN'T THAT...

YOU CALLED ME OUT HERE, RIGHT?
TWITCH
THEN WHY?
WHY DO I HAVE TO HOLD BACK?
TWITCH
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
I STAY BY YOUR SIDE...
...BE-CAUSE YOU GIVE ME WHAT I NEED
TWITCH
...
IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO GIVE ME ANYTHING...
...THEN WHY DID YOU CALL ME?
THAT'S NOT HOW IT SHOULD BE, RIGHT, REIJI...?
I MAY BE YOUR FAMILIAR...

BUT YOU, YOU ARE...
...MY MASTER, AREN'T YOU...?
ALL RIGHT THEN...
...LET'S GIVE IT A GO, SHAVER.
LET'S SEE HOW SHARP YOU ARE AFTER ALL THIS TIME OFF, HUH?
Ampha
THAT'S TRUE...

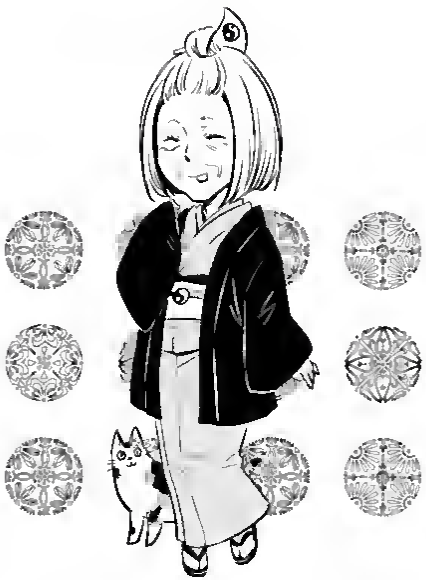
ZOKUSHO SHRINE INNER GROUNDS - TRAINING CAMP--
MAN... THIS IS TOUGH...
WATERFALL TRAINING
MAGIC DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL
100X INCANTATION CHANT
MAKING CURRY WITH FAMILIARS
FIRE ALTER PLUS AN INCANTATION CHANT
NO KIDDING...
I'M SO EXHAUSTED.
I REALLY DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE SO HARD...
BLEEHHH...
BUT, WELL...
Phew...

EVEN SHE WAS PROBABLY IN NO CONDITION FOR IT.
YEAH... SHE MAY BE A FIRST CLASS STATE ONMYOJI, BUT SHE'S STILL YOUNGER THAN US.
AND TODAY'S COURSE WAS A REAL TEST FOR THE MIND AND BODY.
I GUESS WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT SUZUKA DIDN'T COME OUT AND MAKE A MESS THIS AFTERNOON.
IT WAS ALMOST PEACE-FUL...
Haha.
YEAH.
Anyway...
WELL, DINNER'S OVER, SO...
...GUESS IT'S TIME TO JUST SHOWER AND CALL IT A NIGHT ...
HM?
OH YEAH!
NA-TSUME, WHAT ABOUT BATHING ...
I BROUGHT A SIMPLE FAMILIAR FOR THE BATH HOUSE...
JUMP
BUT THERE'S NO POINT IN GOING OUT OF MY WAY TO USE IT.
STRIP
SO MAYBE I'LL JUST FORGET ABOUT IT FOR TODAY.
Y-YEAH...
THAT'S PROBABLY BEST...

IT'S ONLY ONE DAY ANYWAY.
I'LL MANAGE.
YEAH ...
IT MUST BE A REAL PAIN.
I'M SURE SHE'S TIRED AND WANTS TO WASH AWAY THE DAY'S SWEAT...
RUMBLE
HARUTORA, NATSUME.
COME HERE FOR A SECOND.
WHAT'S UP, TOJI?
WE NEED TO TALK.
ABOUT WHAT? THAT NEW SEAL OR SOMETHING?
THERE'S THAT, TOO, BUT...
...JUST FOLLOW ME.

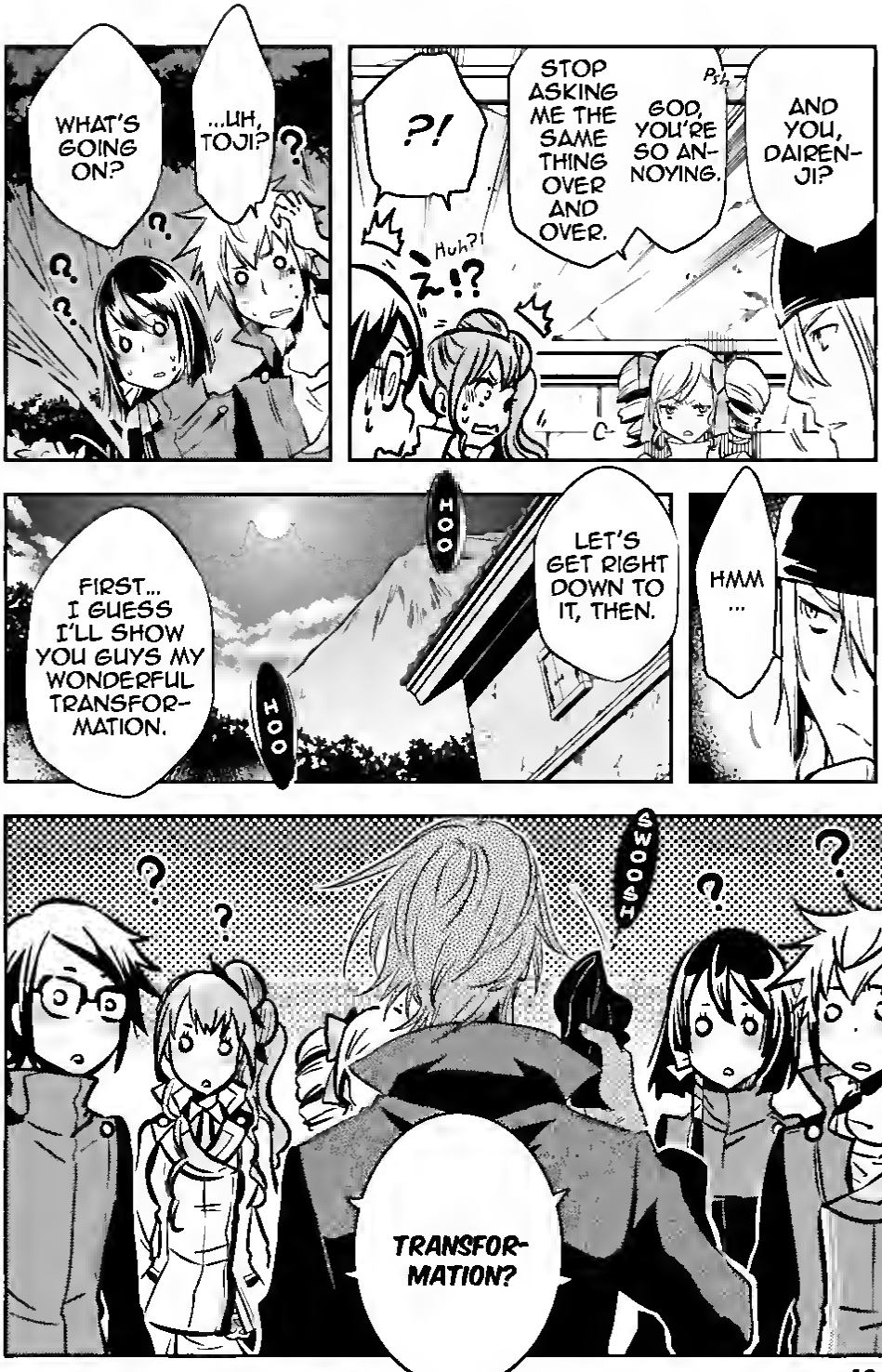
HOO...
HOO...
HOO...
HOO...
HUH?
KYOKO AND TENMA...
...AND SUZUKA, TOO?

HOO-
HOO-...
WHAT EXACTLY ...
...IS THIS ABOUT?
END OF CHAPTER 36



TOKYO RAVENS

I WANTED THE CHANCE TO SHARE OUR INFO WITH EVERY-ONE HERE NOW.
WHAT EXACTLY ...
...IS THIS ABOUT?
BUT LET ME ASK YOU AGAIN...
... KYOKO AND TENMA.
CHA THE M ING
TOJI?
Huh?!
WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO HEAR MIGHT MEAN YOUR LIFE. ARE YOU SURE YOU STILL WANNA KNOW?
Sigh.
THANKS, GUYS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, BUT IF YOU GUYS HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT US TO HEAR...
...THEN OF COURSE WE'LL LISTEN.
YEAH.
...IT HAS TO DO WITH NATSUME, RIGHT?
LOOK, WE'RE HERE, AREN'T WE? JUST GET ON WITH IT ALREADY.


WHAT'S GOING ON?
...UH, TOJI?
?!
STOP ASKING ME THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER.
GOD, YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.
Psh
AND YOU, DAIREN-JI?
Huh?!
HOO
HOO
FIRST... I GUESS I'LL SHOW YOU GUYS MY WONDERFUL TRANSFORMATION.
LET'S GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, THEN.
HMM...
SWOOSH
TRANSFOR-MATION?

Chapter 37
The Meeting

I SEE...
IN THAT CASE...
WELL, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE THE DOMAN ASHIYA STORY, BUT...
...
...WE SHOULD DEFINITELY TAKE ALL THE INFO WE HAVE AND LOOK INTO IT AGAIN.
...WITH THE RUMORS ABOUT NATSU-ME...
...AND THE SPIRITUAL DISASTER ATTACK FROM BEFORE...
...IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE JUST A STORY ANYMORE.
...AFTER HEARING ABOUT THIS "D" INVESTI-GATION THAT DAIRENJI SAYS THE MAGICAL IN-VESTIGATION DIVISION IS DOING...
THERE ARE PLENTY OF MAGES WHO OPENLY SUPPORT YAKO ANYWAY.
YOU SHOULD KNOW, THOUGH, THAT NOT ALL YAKO DEVOTEES ARE BAD GUYS.
IT'S NO LESS UNBELIEVABLE THAN DAIRENJI'S SWEET ACT NOW...
IMAGINATION
ガラガラガラ
CRUMBLE

AND EVEN THOUGH YAKO IS BEING BLAMED FOR THE SPIRITUAL DISASTERS THAT HAVE HIT TOKYO...
...YOU CAN'T DENY HIS GENIUS. HE'S BASICALLY THE FOUNDER OF MODERN MAGIC.
BUT AFTER SOME DEVOTEES CAUSED THAT TERRORIST ATTACK TWO YEARS AGO...
...THE ONE CALLED THE "MOMO-NO-SEKKU PURIFICATION"...
...ANYONE WHO BLINDLY FOLLOWS YAKO...
...HAS BEEN LABELED AS DANGEROUS.
THOSE ARE THE GUYS YOU CALL "YAKO DEVOTEES."
AND THE ONE BEHIND THAT TERRORIST ATTACK...
...WAS FIRST CLASS STATE ONMYOJI...
...SHIDO DAIRENJI.

MY FATHER.
THE OGRE INSIDE ME THAT I JUST SHOWED YOU...
...IS A REMNANT OF THE DYNAMIC SPIRITUAL DISASTER THAT SHIDO DAIRENJI CAUSED.
.....
SILENCE
IT SEEMS SHIDO DAIRENJI AND ALL THE OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ATTACK...
...WERE PART OF A SECRET SOCIETY CALLED THE "TWIN HORN SYNDICATE."
SE-CRET... SOCI-ETY?
SOUNDS LIKE SOME-THING STRAIGHT OUT OF A MANGA...
THAT'S NOT ALL.

AND I'D SAY THAT OLD GUY YOU ALL MET IS PROBABLY CONNECTED, TOO, DON'T YA THINK?
THAT "D" GUY THE AGENCY IS INVESTIGATING IS ALSO THOUGHT TO HAVE TIES TO THE TWIN HORNS.
THE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION STILL HASN'T FOUND A THING.
BUT THERE'S NO HARD PROOF THAT "D" IS CONNECTED TO THE SYNDICATE ...
...LET ALONE PROOF THAT HE'S THE REAL DOMAN ASHIYA.
THE TWIN HORN SYNDICATE IS TARGETING NATSUME...
THAT'S ALL WE KNOW AT THIS POINT, AT LEAST.
...AND THE CHANCES OF THEM OR THIS MYSTERIOUS "D" MAKING ANOTHER MOVE ARE PRETTY HIGH.
SO IT'S ALL JUST... SPECULATION?
.....

JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS WHAT'S GOING ON.
BUT, THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE WE CAN REALLY DO AT THE MOMENT...
THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE, SO WE CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN.
PLUS, IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE SYNDICATE MEMBERS IN THE ONMYO AGENCY.
.....
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY MORE CHANCES LIKE THIS WE'LL HAVE...
ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANNA KNOW?
FLINCH
TELL ME...
...SUZUKA DAIRENJI...

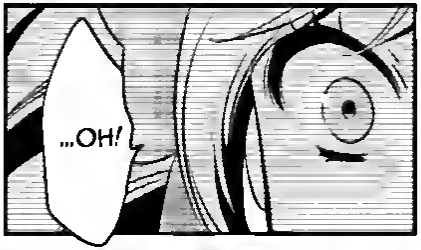
AM I...
AM I REALLY...
...YAKO TSUCHIMIKADO REINCARNATED?
!
NATSU-ME...?!

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE...
BUT LAST YEAR, YOU...
YEAH, WELL.
TO BE HONEST ...
PERSONALLY, I STILL THINK MY HYPOTHESIS IS TRUE, BUT...
...WE STILL CAN'T EVEN PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF THE HUMAN SOUL THROUGH MAGIC.
SO JUST HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PROVE SOMEONE'S A REINCARNATION?
SINCE YAKO WAS SUCH A MAJOR PART THAT I NEEDED TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL.
...I REALLY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DECIDE THAT YOU WERE YAKO.
SHUDDER

I'D HAPPILY DELVE INTO FORBIDDEN MAGIC TO PROVE MY THEORY WAS RIGHT.
...I'VE STILL GOT THE DESIRE TO PROVE IT.
BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, EVEN NOW...
UNFOR-TUNATELY, MY MAGIC'S BEEN SEALED AWAY.
SO I'M JUST BIDING MY TIME AND WATCHING.
.....!
W-WAIT JUST A SECOND!

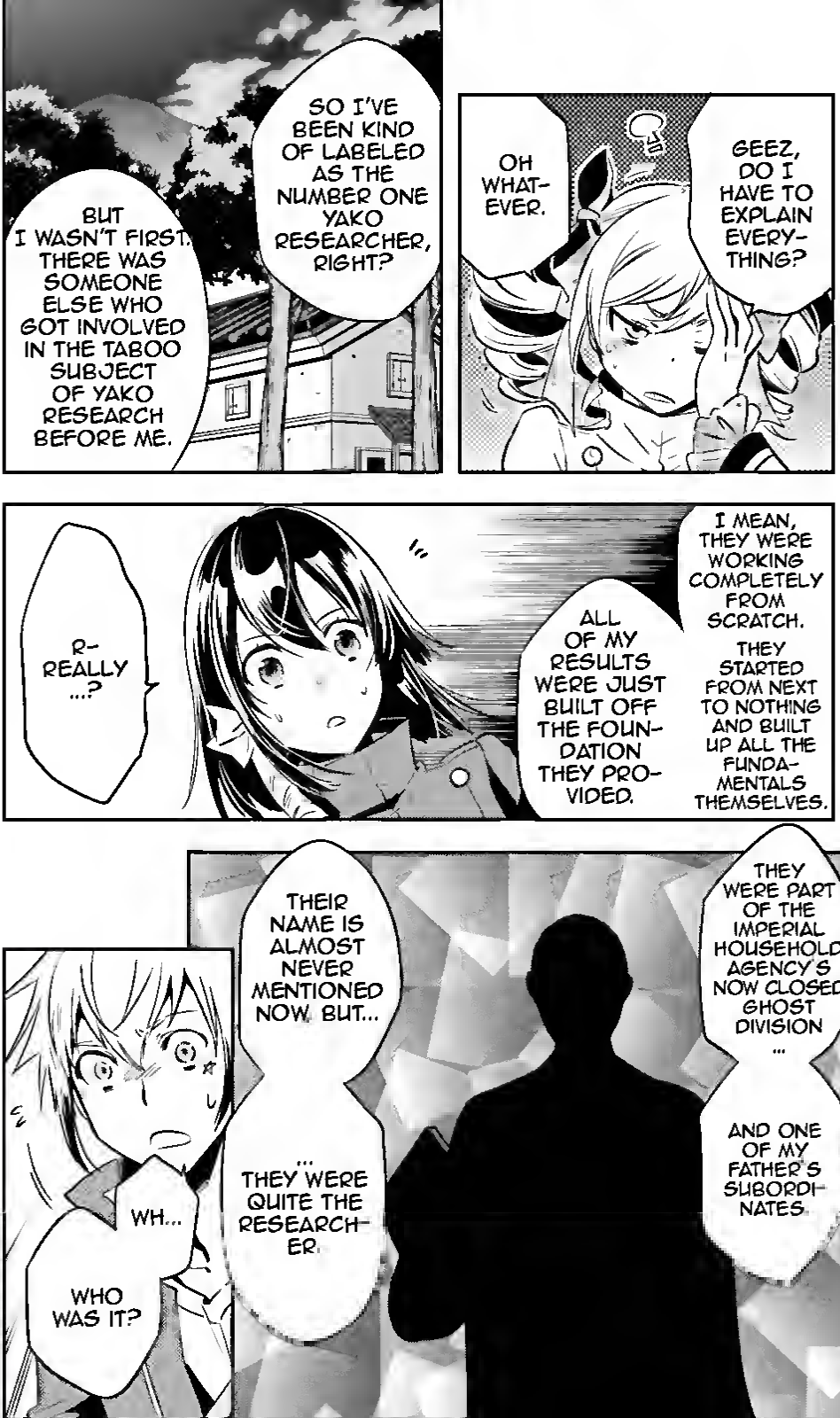
YOU TWO HAVE MET BEFORE?
AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOUR POWER BEING SEALED AWAY...
WELL ...
IT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.
LOOK, I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO THINK THAT I'M IN ON YOUR LITTLE CONSPIRACY HERE.
SO LET ME START BY SAYING THAT SPREADING THIS AROUND WOULD BE BAD FOR THE AGENCY..
...SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
HARUTORA AND TOJI...
YOU GUYS ENTERING SCHOOL MID-TERM WAS...
YUP, IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT INCIDENT.
BUT, COME ON...
SWISH
...WHO DO YOU THINK GAVE ME THIS SEAL?
HUH?
0.0

OBVIOUSLY IT WAS THE LEADER OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS, GENJI KURAHASHI.
YOUR FATHER, KYOKO.
...!


...OH!

BUT I GUESS... HMM...
THAT MIGHT WORK...
"THAT"?

ANYWAY, IMPERIAL MAGIC IS OLD.
AND SINCE THE FIELDS RELATED TO SOUL MAGIC ARE FORBIDDEN ...
PAT PAT
...WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER FIND OUT WHETHER NATSUME IS THE REINCARNATION OF YAKO OR NOT.
AT LEAST, NOT AS LONG AS NO ONE HAS THE SAME DISREGARD FOR THE RULES AS ME.


SO I'VE BEEN KIND OF LABELED AS THE NUMBER ONE YAKO RESEARCHER, RIGHT?
BUT I WASN'T FIRST. THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE WHO GOT INVOLVED IN THE TABOO SUBJECT OF YAKO RESEARCH BEFORE ME.
GEEZ, DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN EVERY-THING?
OH WHAT-EVER.
I MEAN, THEY WERE WORKING COMPLETELY FROM SCRATCH.
THEY STARTED FROM NEXT TO NOTHING AND BUILT UP ALL THE FUNDA-MENTALS THEMSELVES.
ALL OF MY RESULTS WERE JUST BUILT OFF THE FOUN-DATION THEY PRO-VIDED.
R-REALLY ...?
THEY WERE PART OF THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY'S NOW CLOSED GHOST DIVISION ...
AND ONE OF MY FATHER'S SUBORDI-NATES.
THEIR NAME IS ALMOST NEVER MENTIONED NOW, BUT...
... THEY WERE QUITE THE RESEARCH-ER.
WH...
WHO WAS IT?

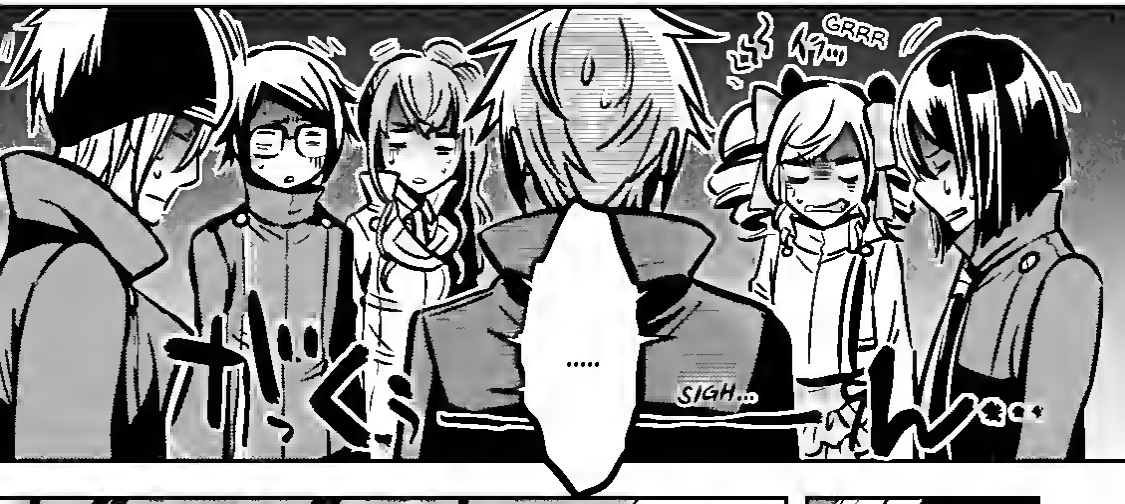
...
SILENCE
SEE?
I JUST TOLD YOU THEY'RE HARDLY EVER MENTIONED! YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO KNOW THEM?!
EVEN IF I DON'T, ONE OF US MIGHT...
RYO SAO-TOME.

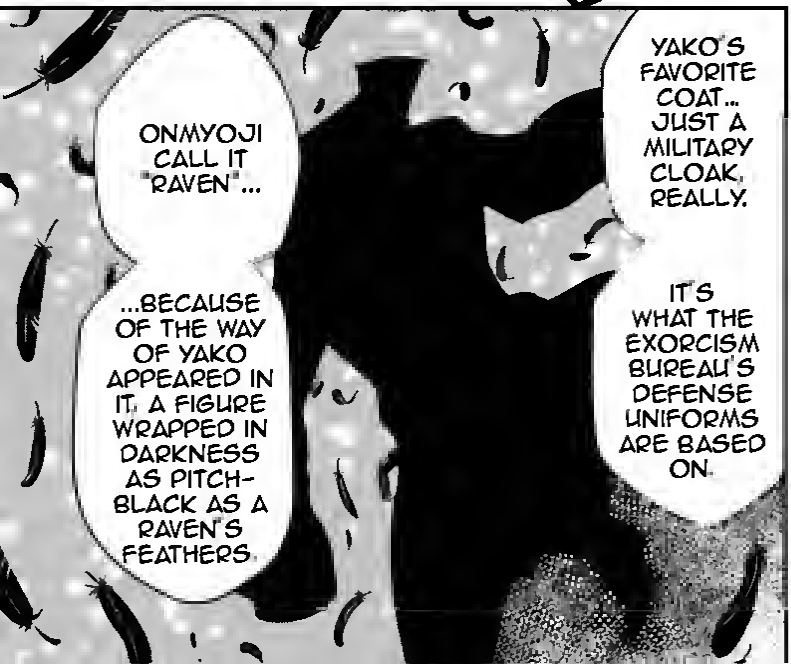
I'VE TRIED LOOKING INTO IT, BUT THE MAGICAL INVESTIGA-TION DIVISION HAS MOST OF THE GHOST DIVISION'S DOCUMENTS.
WHO KNOWS?
WHERE ARE THEY NOW, AND WHAT ARE THEY UP TO...
...DOES THAT MEAN THEY WERE A MEMBER OF THE TWIN HORN SYNDI-CATE?
IF THEY WERE PART OF THE GHOST DIVISION ...

SO THEY WERE PROBABLY MOVED TO ANOTHER DIVISION TO DO DIFFERENT WORK AFTER THAT
DURING ONE BRIEF PERIOD LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER MY FATHER BECAME CHIEF OF THE GHOST DIVISION
THIS SAOTOME PERSON ONLY PUBLISHED THEIR REPORTS AND ESSAYS...

I'M SAYING THAT I DON'T KNOW.
...SO DOES THAT MEAN THEY AREN'T CONNECTED TO THE TERRORIST ATTACK TWO YEARS AGO?
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT BOTHERING TO SEARCH THEM OUT.
ANYWAY, THEY WERE RESEARCHING YAKO HIMSELF...
...WHILE I WAS RESEARCHING IMPERIAL MAGIC.
"...ONE CAN DETERMINE IF HE IS THE REINCARNATION OF YAKO."
"BY USING THE RAVEN'S COAT..."
AND IN ONE OF THEIR MEMOS, IT SAID...
ANYWAY, THIS SAOTOME ...HAD A RATHER UNIQUE THEORY.
YEP.
SUPPOSEDLY, IT "CHOOSES ITS OWNER" ...
THE... RAVEN'S COAT?
!
WHA...

BUT EVEN IF WE KNOW THAT IT'S A GENERAL-USE FAMILIAR AND, SURE, FILLED WITH SPIRIT ENERGY--WE REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
SO IN THE END, THIS IS JUST A THEORY.
HUH? WAIT A SEC.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS "RAVING COAT"?


GRRR
.....
SIGH...


YAKO'S FAVORITE COAT... JUST A MILITARY CLOAK, REALLY.
IT'S WHAT THE EXORCISM BUREAU'S DEFENSE UNIFORMS ARE BASED ON.
ONMYOJI CALL IT "RAVEN"...
...BECAUSE OF THE WAY OF YAKO APPEARED IN IT. A FIGURE WRAPPED IN DARKNESS AS PITCH-BLACK AS A RAVEN'S FEATHERS.

IT'S THE "RAVEN'S COAT"...

I'M SURE THEY WOULDN'T LET A BUNCH OF STUDENTS LIKE US EVEN LOOK AT IT...
.....
IT SHOULD STILL BE LOCKED AWAY IN THE ONMYO AGENCY...
THOUGH, I GUESS MORE THAN LOCKED AWAY, I SHOULD SAY IT'S "SEALED AWAY" AS A FORBIDDEN MAGICAL ITEM.
...SO WHY DON'T WE USE KYOKO'S CONNECTIONS AND TRY IT OUT?
...WELL, IT'S MOSTLY JUST SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK DAIRENJI.
Whaaaa?!
THE NEXT...
THERE'S STILL MORE ??
ONTO THE NEXT BIT OF BUSINESS, THEN.
...ANYWAY, I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH INFORMATION EXCHANGE.
AND NATSUME...
...EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP...
DON

MAYBE YOU...
...COULD HELP REPAY HER BY TAKING PART...
...IN SOME OF HER EXPERI-MENTS?
WHA?!
HOLD IT, TOJI!
THUMP
THUMP
...I--
SHUT UP FOR A SECOND.
I'M ASKING NATSUME, NOT YOU.

NO DEAL.
I TOLD YOU, RIGHT?
I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST DESIRE TO BE A PART OF YOUR LITTLE GANG.
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S ABOUT "D" OR THE SYNDICATE OR WHATEVER.
SU-ZUKA ...
...
GULP
HMPH

Ah...
-RUSTLE
M-MASTER HARU-TORA!
OH!
THEY'RE HERE!
Huh??
...
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
SOME KINDA DARE?
CHATTER
OH, UH, W-WHAT'S UP?
DON'T WHAT'S UP ME. IT'S BATH TIME!
THE THIRD YEARS ARE DONE... AND OUR TIME IS ALMOST UP, YOU KNOW?
HOW THOUGHT-FUL! YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE BECAUSE NO ONE WAS IN THE ROOM!
CLICK CLACK
スタスタスタ
UH...
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT CAMP, AND I JUST GOT CAUGHT UP IN CHAT-TING, YOU KNOW?
Hehehe
SO SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THAT!

END OF CHAPTER 37

TOKYO RAVENS

CHAPTER 38
ADVICE

DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN MT. FUJI ON A MOONLIT NIGHT...
POPULAR FOOD IN YAMANASHI PREF.: HOTO
HMM?
SLURP
NOW, IF I JUST HAD SOME SAKE, I'D BE SET...
SLUUURP
MR. OTOMO.
WHEW
WHAT'S UP, NATSUME?
WHEW

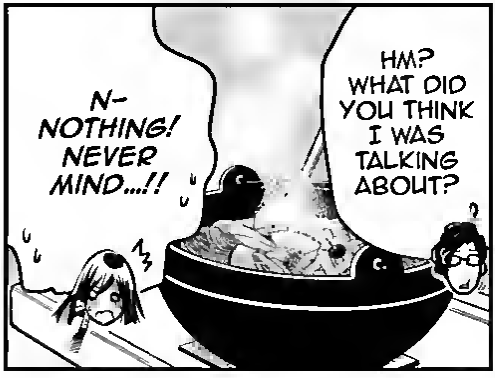
HA HA...
YOU'RE REALLY A WORRY-WART, EH?
SORRY TO INTER-RUPT.
SPLATTER
I'M...NOT FEELING SO WELL TODAY...
...AND I WAS HOPING TO SKIP OUT ON TAKING A BATH TONIGHT...
YOU DON'T NEED TO REPORT EVERY-THING TO ME, YA KNOW?
JUST GO ON AND GET SOME REST.
OKAY.
Did I go over-board?
BLUSH
SO HOW ABOUT IT, NATSU-ME...?
THINK YOU'LL GET ALONG WITH SUZUKA?
OH, Y-YEAH ...
Eh
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
NOD
NOD
SLURP
WELL, SHE IS A STATE ONMYOJI FIRST CLASS, SO...
...I'M SURE THERE'S A LOT I CAN LEARN FROM HER.
I'VE TOLD HARU-TORA THIS, TOO, BUT...

...SUZU-KA IS...
YOU KNOW, SHE'S A LOT LIKE YOU.
by Toji
...A LOT LIKE YOU, I THINK.
...!
SO I ASKED HARUTORA TO KEEP A WATCH OVER HER.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S REALLY WORKING AT IT, TOO.
OH...
DOES THAT...
...UP-SET YOU?
What?!
HUH?
N-NO...
SLUURP
NOT... REALLY...
BY THE WAY, NATSUME.

YOU KNOW...
THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD BACK IN FRONT OF HER, 'KAY?
...WHAT?
SHOCK

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REALLY TALK ON HER LEVEL, AFTER ALL.
IN TERMS OF WHAT YOU KNOW AND WHAT YOU CAN DO, YOU'RE BOTH PRETTY CLOSE.
IF ANY-ONE HERE COULD HAVE A FRIENDLY COMPETITION, IT'S PROB-ABLY YOU TWO.

BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
ドキドキドキ
AHH...
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT ...


HM? WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS TALKING ABOUT?
N-NOTHING! NEVER MIND...!!

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M IN A POSITION TO GIVE ADVICE TO STUDENTS LIKE YOU.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
NO, NO, IT'S FINE.
...OH, BUT...
I GUESS I'M NOT ONE TO REALLY TALK, THOUGH.
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I WAS JUST SKIPPING CLASSES ANYWAY.
I'VE HEARD YOU WERE IN... THE "THREE CROWS OF THE 36TH."
PFFFFF
GOD-DAMMIT, ZENJI-RO...
ALWAYS RUNNING YOUR MOUTH...
I GUESS YOU'RE REALLY CLOSE, HUH?
MR. KOGURE CALLED YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME, TOO.

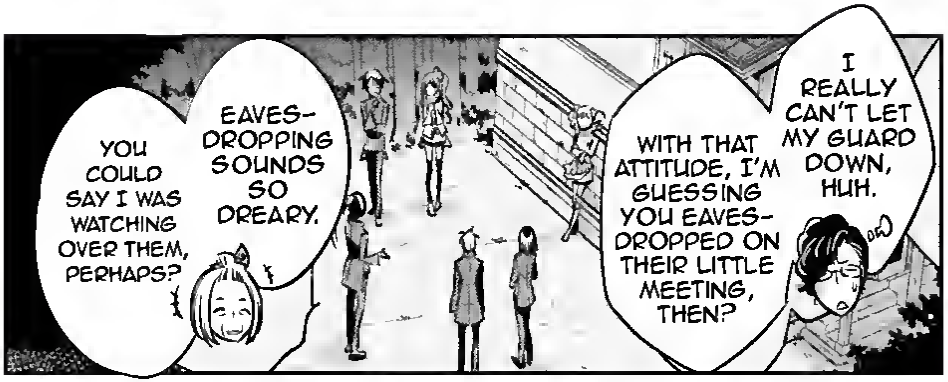
...ABOUT GETTING ALONG WITH ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS.
SO I Haha! GUESS THAT MEANS I COULD ASK YOU FOR ADVICE...
...
Hehe.
SO, YOU ARE FRIENDS, THEN.
OTHERWISE YOU MAY BE SURPRISED BY HOW YOU'RE STUCK WITH THEM.
YOU'VE GOTTA CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS WISELY, NATSUME.
IT'S AN UNSAVORY RELATIONSHIP...
ONLY THINKING ABOUT HAVING FUN...
WE WERE JUST A BUNCH OF TROUBLEMAKERS.
...NOT THAT I WAS ALL THAT DIFFERENT.
OH NO, HE WAS JUST AN IDIOT WHEN WE WERE IN SCHOOL...
TWISH
HE WAS ALWAYS PRETTY STRANGE.
HMM, I WONDER ...
WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?
BY THE WAY, IF YOU WERE THE "THREE CROWS"...
...YOU MUST HAVE HAD ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND IN SCHOOL, RIGHT?

I HEARD HE ENDED UP MOVING OUT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR FAMILY REASONS THOUGH.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S UP TO NOWA-DAYS...
THIS REALLY TAKES ME BACK THOUGH.
HMM?
MR. KOGURE CLAMMED UP ABOUT IT ALL, BUT...
AHH, I SEE...
YUUUP ...
SIP
JUST TALKING ABOUT THE PAST BRINGS BACK ALL THESE MEMO-RIES...
...IT'S NOT MUCH, REALLY, BUT...
...IF I COULD GO BACK AND GIVE MYSELF ADVICE...
...I'D PROBABLY TELL MYSELF...
..."DON'T BOTHER WITH PRIDE"...
...OR SOME-THING.

PRIDE...?
YEAH.
PEOPLE, YOU KNOW...
...IF THE ONES YOU'RE WITH ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU...
...THEN YOU SHOULD REALLY JUST BE YOURSELF WITH THEM.
...
EVEN IF IT'LL BURDEN THEM A BIT...
...IT'S BETTER JUST TO BE STRAIGHT ABOUT THINGS.
THAT'S WHAT I MEANT BY TELLING YOU NOT TO HOLD BACK.
YES...
NOT ONLY WITH SUZUKA, THOUGH...
...OKAY?

SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR DINNER.
GOT IT... OH!
BOW
HMM...
ANYWAY, JUST RELAX AND GIVE IT A TRY, YEAH?
THIRD YEARS ARE PARTICIPATING IN TOMORROW'S LECTURE TOO...
...SO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T STAY UP ALL NIGHT.
SIP
NOM...
NOM
NOM
REALLY...
...IT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH, BUT KEEP AT IT, NATSUME.
...
...GULP

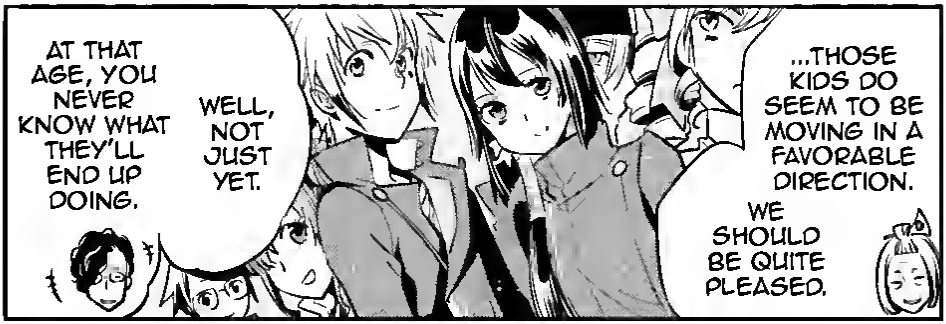
...SO THAT WAS YOU, PRINCIPAL.
Hm...
FIGURED AS MUCH.
PITTER PATTER
WELL, THANK YOU FOR WORKING SO HARD TO CONTROL A FAMILIAR ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO.
ちょこん
THUMP
THOUGH IF YOU COULDN'T PICK UP ON A SNEAKY FAMILIAR, THEN I SUPPOSE I'D HAVE NO REASON TO MAKE YOU A TEACHER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY YOU "FIGURED" AS MUCH?
YES, YES.
I MAY BE GETTING OLD AND ALL.
AND I'M AWARE THAT MY SENSES MAY BE FADING, BUT...
...SOMETHING OF THIS LEVEL IS STILL NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN LOOKING AFTER MY ADORABLE LITTLE STUDENTS.
HA HA HA...
EVER DEPENDABLE, EH?
AND IT SEEMS YOUR HEARING WILL NEVER FADE

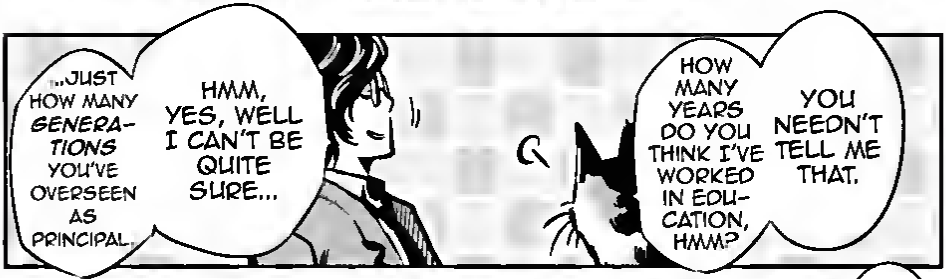

I REALLY CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN, HUH.
WITH THAT ATTITUDE, I'M GUESSING YOU EAVESDROPPED ON THEIR LITTLE MEETING, THEN?
EAVESDROPPING SOUNDS SO DREARY.
YOU COULD SAY I WAS WATCHING OVER THEM, PERHAPS?

バチ バチ
CRACK
バチ
SNAP
WELL, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM, YOU KNOW.
THOUGH I AM A BIT RELUCTANT TO BE LUMPED TOGETHER WITH JUST SOME CURIOUS ONLOOKER.
WELL NOW.
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, YOU COULD SAY THAT I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING AFTER YOU NOW, COULDN'T YOU?

THEN AGAIN, OF COURSE, YOU NOTICED, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU WERE THERE, TOO, AFTER ALL.

WOOSH
AL-THOUGH ...


AT THAT AGE, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'LL END UP DOING.
WELL, NOT JUST YET.
...THOSE KIDS DO SEEM TO BE MOVING IN A FAVORABLE DIRECTION.
WE SHOULD BE QUITE PLEASED.


...JUST HOW MANY *GENERATIONS* YOU'VE OVERSEEN AS PRINCIPAL.
HMM, YES, WELL I CAN'T BE QUITE SURE...
HOW MANY YEARS DO YOU THINK I'VE WORKED IN EDUCATION, HMM?
YOU NEEDN'T TELL ME THAT.

...IT WOULD SURE TAKE A LOAD OFF MY BACK!
...BUT IF THEY COULD AT LEAST BE STRONG ENOUGH TO RUN AWAY ON THEIR OWN...
IT'S NO GOOD TO LET THEM GAIN TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE...
TEHEHE
...

BUT...
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME THAT I ACTIVELY...
...LEND A HAND TO THEM, HUH?

I SUPPOSE SO...

...IT'S TIME TO GIVE... THAT PLAN SOME THOUGHT.
OR PERHAPS ...
...
ARE YOU SURE?
SST
...MR. OTOMO, PLEASE JUST BE PREPARED ...
I CAN'T SAY JUST YET...
...BUT...
...
PITTER PATTER

HAVE YOU ALREADY HEARD...
...ABOUT THE "RAVEN'S COAT"?
PAUSE
...NO.
THAT ONE IN THE ONMYO AGENCY...
...WOULD APPEAR TO BE...
...A REPLICA.

...I'VE HEARD THAT THE REAL ONE IS...
...AT ONMYO PREP.
...IS THAT SO?
YEAH, AND...
...FROM WHO?
HIM.

SWOOSH
MEOW
PRINCI-
PAL...?
PITTER PATTER
Hmph...

FWOOO
WHEW...
FINALLY, SOME SHUT-EYE...
BAF

YEAH ...
WHISPER
Oh!
YOU OKAY, NATSU-ME?
Can you sleep?
WE'RE ...
...SO CLOSE...
...I'LL TRY NOT TO...
NO, I MEAN...
I DON'T DO THAT, DON'T WORRY.
B-BUT IF YOU ROLL AROUND IN YOUR SLEEP...
THAT CAN'T BE HELPED THOUGH!
ROLL
BE-SIDES, I'M TOO TIRED...
NO, I-I'M FINE!
WHISPER
IF YOU'RE WORRIED, WHY NOT JUST LEAVE A DUMMY AND SLEEP SOMEWHERE ELSE?
WHISPER
FIDGET
そわそわそわ
そわそわそわ
FIDGET

I'M JUST ...
...KINDA NERVOUS BEING SURROUNDED BY GUYS HERE.
HM, WHA?
HEY... HARUTORA?
SO, PLEASE...
...STAY BY MY SIDE, OKAY?
BLUUUSH
あぁっ
O-OH, SURE...
THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

THIS EVENING KON WILL BE LOOKING AFTER YOU, LORD NATSUME.
!!
FLINCH
...SHALL THEY LAY EVEN ONE FINGER ON YOU!
NO MATTER HOW MANY THERE ARE.
UNDER NO CIRCUM-STANCE...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
FWUMP
THANKS, KON.
WELL, THAT IS REAS-SURING.
REST AT EASE.
...I WILL BE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF THAT AS WELL.
...IF LORD NATSUME TOSSES ABOUT IN HER SLEEP..
OF COURSE ...
I D-DON'T TOSS IN MY SLEEP!
FLUSH

WELL, THEN.
G'NIGHT, NATSUME.
YEAH...
GOOD NIGHT, HARU-TORA.
...
...
AH!
SO CLOSE ...
AHEM!
YEAH...
...WE'RE STILL PRETTY CLOSE, AREN'T WE...
...AHH, BUUUT...
RESTLESS
そわそわ
そわ
ドキドキ
NERVOUS
HMM?
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
GRAB
ばっ

?
..GRR!
SEETH

BUT YOU CAN PUT UP WITH IT FOR JUST ONE DAY, CAN'T YOU?
...NOT DOING SO WELL, ARE WE?
AH, NOTHING ...

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
I'M...
MUMBLE

?
?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

HUH?
GO AHEAD AND SLEEP, HARU-TORA.
I'M GOING TO THE BATH-ROOM!
SWISH

HMPH!
W...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
?
?
キョロ
PEEK
キョロ
PEEK
TIP-TOE
TIP-TOE
Bathroom (1)
SLIDE
END OF CHAPTER 38

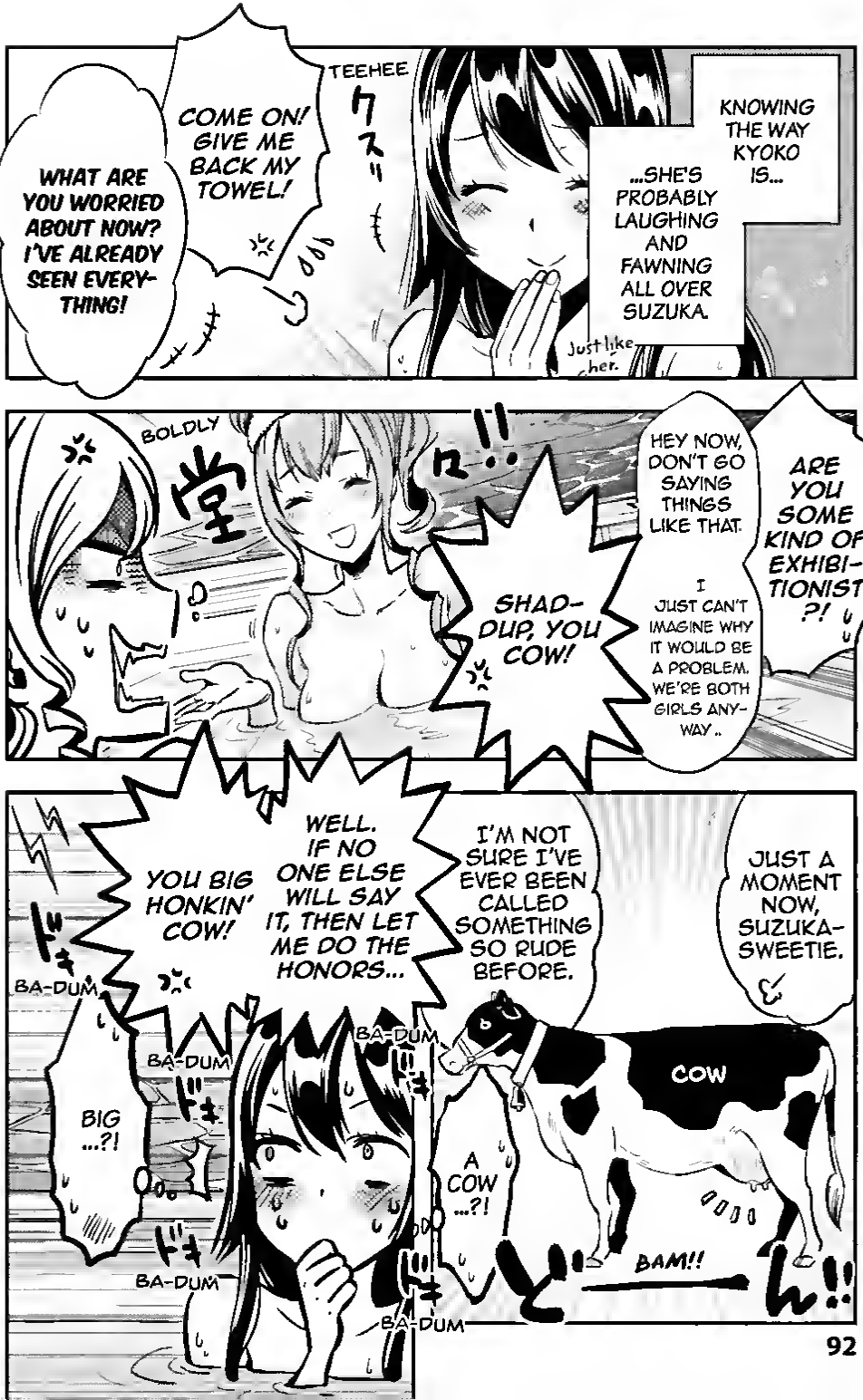
CHAPTER 19
THE BATHROOM

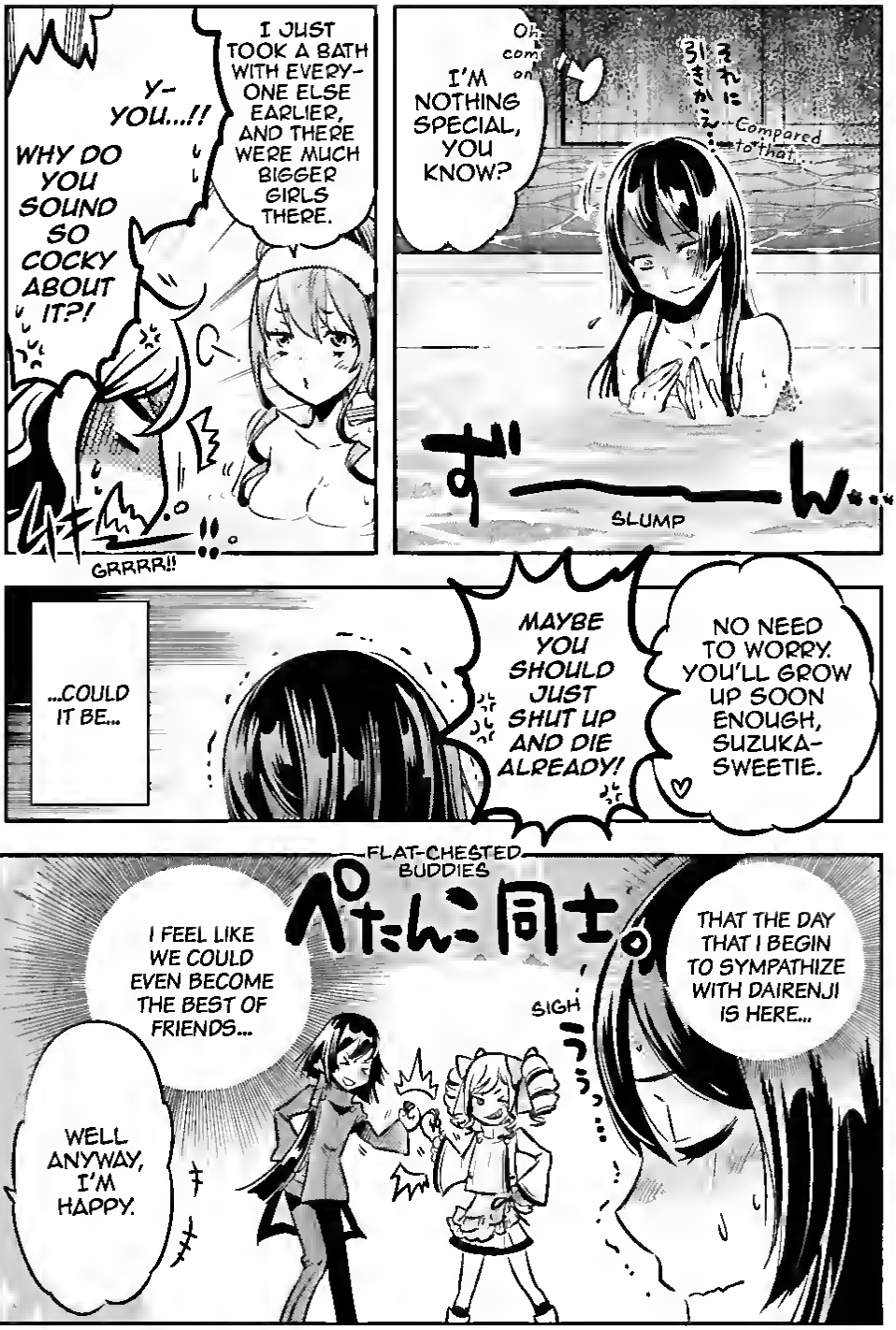
Bathroom (1)
SLIDE
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS.
THE BATH IS STILL FILLED.
I ALWAYS USE THE SHOWER STALLS IN THE BOYS' DORM...
...SO IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE STRETCHED OUT IN A NICE BIG BATH!
COME ON!

YOU DON'T NEED A TOWEL.
WE'RE BOTH GIRLS, RIGHT?
?!
WHA--WAIT!!
CUT IT OUT, YOU BITCH!
GIVE ME MY TOWEL BACK!
TUMP-TUMP-TUMP
SPLASH
...AND SUZUKA?
IS THAT KYOKO'S VOICE?
Bwaaaah?!
IN THE NEXT ROOM?
INVISIBILITY

BUT...
...THOSE TWO WERE NEVER TOGETH-ER...
くるっ
SPIN
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GO BACK...
I WONDER ...
...BEFORE THAT MEETING WE ALL JUST HAD.
...SO MAY-BE KYOKO SORTA DRAGGED HER OUT AFTER EVERY-ONE WAS ASLEEP...
SUZUKA DIDN'T WANT TO BATHE WITH EVERYONE ELSE...
SO, HEY...
SPLOOSH
...
!!!
SPLISH?

SORRY FOR ASKING THIS OF ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS, BUT...
Hehe
...DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO JUST CALL YOU SUZUKA, LIKE HARUTORA DOES?
Hehe
WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE! DO WHAT YOU WANT!
OKAY, SUZUKA-SWEETIE!
SWEETIE?!
OH COME ON, WE'RE ALREADY THIS CLOSE.
Bahaha
AS IF! THIS DOESN'T MAKE US FRIENDS!
YOU BETTER LEARN YOUR PLACE!
Ahaha
COME ON NOW, SOCIAL STANDING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING FRIENDS.
Ahaha
Hey.
RIGHT, SUZUKA-SWEETIE?
BWAAAAH?!
GOD-DAMMIT!!
I'VE NEVER HEARD SUZUKA SOUND...
...SO FLUSTERED BEFORE...


KNOWING THE WAY KYOKO IS...
...SHE'S PROBABLY LAUGHING AND FAWNING ALL OVER SUZUKA.
Just like her.
TEEHEE
COME ON! GIVE ME BACK MY TOWEL!
WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT NOW? I'VE ALREADY SEEN EVERY-THING!
BOLDLY
SHAD-DUP, YOU COW!
HEY NOW, DON'T GO SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT.
I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE WHY IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM. WE'RE BOTH GIRLS ANY-WAY..
ARE YOU SOME KIND OF EXHIBI-TIONIST?!
JUST A MOMENT NOW, SUZUKA-SWEETIE.
I'M NOT SURE I'VE EVER BEEN CALLED SOMETHING SO RUDE BEFORE.
COW
A COW ...?!
BAM!!
WELL. IF NO ONE ELSE WILL SAY IT, THEN LET ME DO THE HONORS...
YOU BIG HONKIN' COW!
BA-DUM
BIG ...?!

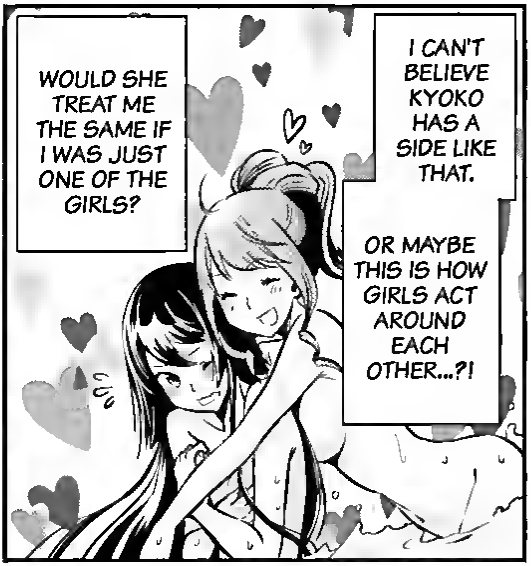

I JUST TOOK A BATH WITH EVERY-ONE ELSE EARLIER, AND THERE WERE MUCH BIGGER GIRLS THERE.
Y-YOU...!!
WHY DO YOU SOUND SO COCKY ABOUT IT?!
GRRRR!!
Oh, come on
I'M NOTHING SPECIAL, YOU KNOW?
それに引きかえ…
Compared to that...
ずーーーん…
SLUMP
...COULD IT BE...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST SHUT UP AND DIE ALREADY!
NO NEED TO WORRY. YOU'LL GROW UP SOON ENOUGH, SUZUKA-SWEETIE.
FLAT-CHESTED BUDDIES
ぺたん同士。
I FEEL LIKE WE COULD EVEN BECOME THE BEST OF FRIENDS...
WELL ANYWAY, I'M HAPPY.
SIGH
うぅ…
THAT THE DAY THAT I BEGIN TO SYMPATHIZE WITH DAIRENJI IS HERE...

I LIKE BOYS JUST LIKE ANY-ONE ELSE.
OH COME ON, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
OH, REALLY? IS THAT SO?? WONDER-FUL!
I'M JUST THRILLED TO HEAR IT!
BO!-NG
...I'M REALLY, DEFI-NITELY, ABSO-LUTELY ...
...I'LL JUST HAVE YOU KNOW ...
...NOT INTER-ESTED, OKAY?!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT I COULD CHAT...
...WITH THE "PRODIGY" LIKE THIS.
WELL THEN, I GUESS I'LL JUST GET TO BED!
...HEY, SU-ZUKA-SWEET-IE?
THAT'S IT!
I'M DONE! I'M OUT!
DO YOU LIKE HARUTORA?
PFFFFF !!!

ALL EARS
地獄耳。
I WILL MURDER YOU!!
あわあわあわわ!?
WHAT WAS THAT?!
...!!
キャー
RWAAARRR!!
THAT'S IT! I WILL SERIOUSLY MURDER YOU!
NO NEED TO GET BASHFUL.
NNNNGH! GRRRR!! BWAAAHH!!
THUMP
THUMP
BA-DUM
ARGGGHHH!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH ... OF YOU!
BA-DUM

I'M LEAVING...!!
SQUISH
わき
HEE HEE, YOU DON'T THINK I'M JUST GONNA LET YOU GO, DO YOU?
SQUISH
わき
SQUISH
わき
SPLASH
SPLASH
HEY, LET GO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHOA, WHAT'S WITH YOUR HANDS?! I'M SURE THAT'S AGAINST THE LAW!
NOOO, STO-OOP!
AWWW, YOU'RE SO CUTE!
GYAAAH!
ブルブルブルブルブル
TREMBLE TREMBLE
WH...WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON OVER THERE?
SPLASH

GEEZ. I HOPE NOT...
BE-SIDES...
UGH...


I CAN'T BELIEVE KYOKO HAS A SIDE LIKE THAT.
WOULD SHE TREAT ME THE SAME IF I WAS JUST ONE OF THE GIRLS?
OR MAYBE THIS IS HOW GIRLS ACT AROUND EACH OTHER...?!

SURPRISE
...THAT IDIOT IHAS ALREADY FALLEN FOR SOMEONE ELSE!
NOT ME...
NOT ME AT ALL...!!
?!
HMMMM...
YES, REALLY! NOW LET GO OF ME!
OH?
REALLY?
SPLASH
SPLASH

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
HARU-TORA...
...LIKES SOMEONE?
TWITCH
...WHAT ABOUT NATSU-ME?
NOT QUITE YOUR TYPE?
IN THAT CASE ...
SILENCE
...
OH!
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS REALLY AFTER ...

Well...
I KNOW THINGS BETWEEN YOU TWO ARE A LITTLE STRAINED...
SORRY...
MAYBE A BIT CLUMSY, BUT...
...BUT NATSUME IS A GOOD PERSON, YOU KNOW?
YOU DON'T...
...KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL.
...HUH?
SPLASH

STING
I HATE PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
NA-TSUME'S... A LIAR.
SPLISH
SUZU-KA!
SLIDE
バタ PIT
バタ PAT
バタ PIT
PIT PAT
PIT PAT

IF THEY'RE IMPORTANT TO YOU...
...YOU SHOULD REALLY JUST BE YOUR-SELF.
...IT'S BETTER JUST TO BE STRAIGHT ABOUT THINGS...
SQUEEZE

KERSPLASH
塾長室
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

...OTOMO IS RIGHT.
I'M STARTING TO GET OLD...
AMAMI SAID THE SAME THING, TOO...
OVERTIME REALLY WORKS ME TO THE BONE.
KNOCK
KNOCK
!
FLINCH
...I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE WHERE IT IS THESE CHILDREN GO...
BUT...

...!!
CLICK
WHAT IS THIS?!
I DIDN'T SENSE A THING...
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL...
AND AT THIS HOUR, ALL THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SHOULD BE AT HOME.
THERE WAS NO REPORT FROM ALPHA OR OMEGA.
I SEE NO DISTUR-BANCES IN THE BARRIER.
WITH ALL OF THE MAGIC SECURITY WE'VE SET UP...
...IF SOMEONE COULD MAKE IT THIS FAR...
...I WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR THEM NOW.
WHO MIGHT IT BE...?
IT'S ME.
?!

CREAK
WELL, WELL...
WHAT A RARE GUEST WE HAVE.
SORRY TO COME SO LATE AT NIGHT...
I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT HAS BEEN SINCE YOU'VE VISITED THE SCHOOL.
...
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS YOUR FAMILIAR HAS ALSO MADE IT TO TOKYO AS WELL, YES?
ONE OF OUR STUDENTS HAS ALREADY FALLEN UNDER ITS CARE.
...
IF YOU PLANNED ON DROPPING BY, YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST MENTIONED IT.
YOU HAD ME QUITE SURPRISED.
He he he.
DON'T TEASE AN OLD WOMAN LIKE THAT.
YOU CAN DISPENSE WITH THE SECOND-CLASS MAGIC...
I DID NOT COME HERE TONIGHT AS AN ALUMNI OF THE SCHOOL.

END OF CHAPTER 39

TWEET TWEET
SWOOOSH
CHAPTER 10
CALLED OUT
TOJI?
NATSU-
ME.

Chapter 40
Called Out

I FELT LIKE WE FIGURED OUT A LOT...
HMM?
YEAH... I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
I TAKE IT YOU COULDN'T SLEEP?
BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS OFF ON YOUR OWN DOING THINGS BY YOURSELF.
OH?
THAT MEETING.
TO BE HONEST, IT WASN'T REALLY LIKE YOU.
...BUT WE HAVEN'T REALLY MADE ANY PROGRESS, HUH?
WELL, I GUESS TALKING DOESN'T GET MUCH DONE ANYWAY.
YOU KNOW, TOJI...
BUT, HEY, YOU GOTTA TAKE WHAT'S GIVEN TO YOU, EH?
Tehe
NOTHING TO THANK ME FOR. NOT YET ANYWAY.
BUT... THANKS.

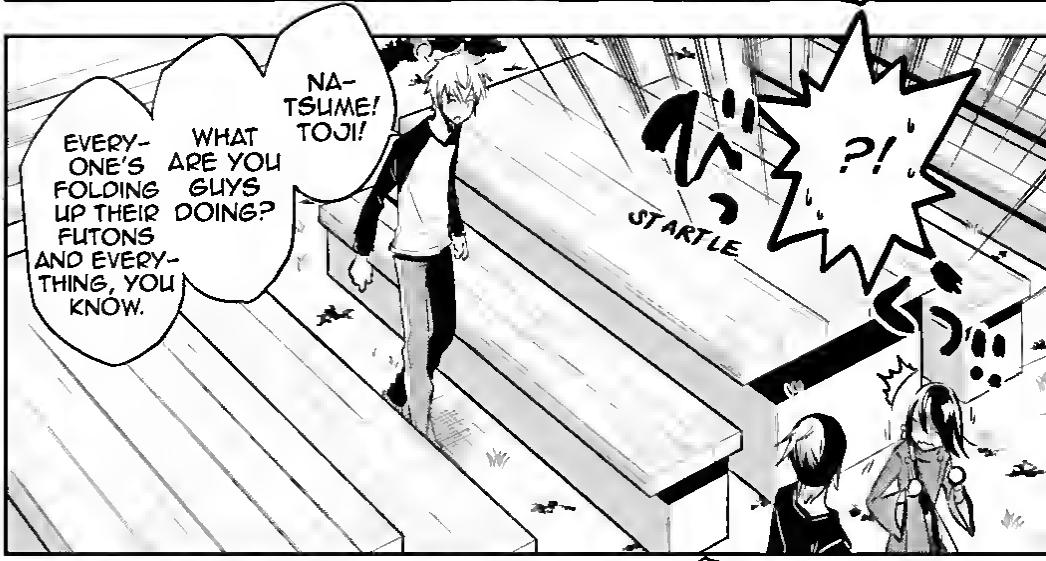
YOU'RE LIKE HARU-TORA IN THAT.
YOU'RE BOTH REALLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND HONEST WHEN IT MATTERS.
I THINK IT'S PRETTY GREAT.
TOJI...
SUZU-KA...
...REALLY HATES ME.
I BET...
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE DOESN'T HAVE HER REASONS ...
...AND I'M REALLY NO GOOD AT DEALING WITH HER TYPE, EITHER.
IN THE END, I...
...I JUST CAN'T BE OPEN WITH HER.

IT MIGHT HAVE TO DO WITH HER BEING ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS, OR A YAKO RESEARCH-ER.
...I DON'T THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE KNOWS I'M A GIRL AND KNOWS MY WEAK SPOT.
BUT, YOU KNOW...
BUT MORE THAN THAT...
...THE MAIN PROBLEM IS...
AHH... RIGHT.
SHE MIGHT HATE ME.
BUT I...
...I'D LIKE TO BE MORE DIRECT AND HONEST WITH HER.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE...
...YOU'VE ALREADY FIGURED IT OUT.
...WHAT I COULD DO TO FIX THIS.
THAT'S WHY... ...I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT THINKING ABOUT...
YEAH. I JUST...
FIDGET
...I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D ASK FOR YOUR OPINION FIRST...
JUST TELL HARUTORA HOW YOU FEEL ALREADY.

SMIRK
OH MY...
...
FLUSH
I SEE.
EVEN YOU'VE FINALLY STARTED FEELING THAT WAY, EH?
WHA--NO! IT'S NOT THAT!
I... HOW I FEEL? IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!
I JUST, YOU KNOW, WANTED TO ASK HARUTORA...
... WHAT THINKS HE...
...YOU KNOW ??
(FIDGET FIDGET
WELL, THE SOONER THE BETTER, EH?
GO ON AND WAKE HIM UP, THEN.
TH-THAT'S TOO SOON!!

I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT OF THE WAY TO WAKE HIM...
CLICK
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
I just expected it to be more, you know!...


?!
STARTLE
NA-TSUME! TOJI!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
EVERY-ONE'S FOLDING UP THEIR FUTONS AND EVERY-THING, YOU KNOW.

THUD THUD THUD
OH YEAH! MY FUTON!
I'LL GO TAKE CARE OF IT RIGHT AWAY!
HUH?

OH!
AH!
PAT
UM!

CHICKEN...
WHAT'S UP WITH NATSUME?
NOTHING. SHE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
GIVE ME A BREAK! HOW IS THAT THE SAME AS ALWAYS?
IT'S JUST WHETHER SHE LETS IT SHOW OR NOT, REALLY.
THAT'S THE REAL NATSUME RIGHT THERE, HARUTORA.
?
?
?
WHOA!
Wooaah
MT. FUJI LOOKS AWESOME!
AND THIS GUY'S NO BETTER...
MAN, POOR DAI-RENJI.
SHE'S GOT NO CHANCE.
MUMBLE
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU RAMBLING ABOUT?
FORGET IT.

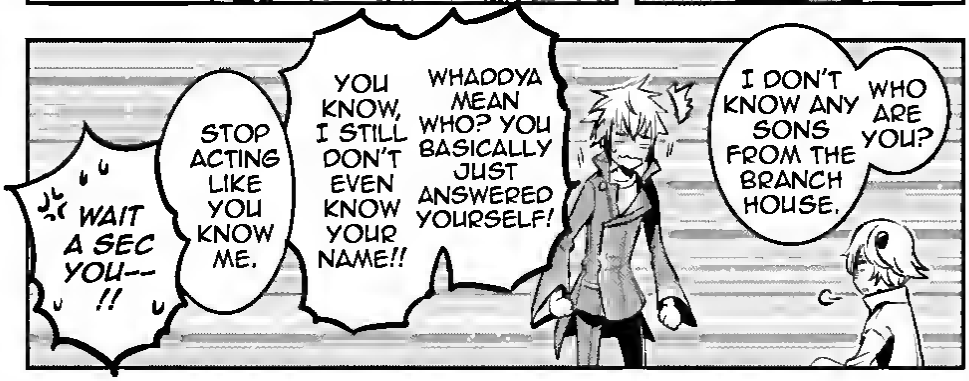
COME ON, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR BREAK-FAST.
TODAY THE SECOND YEARS WILL BE TAKING ON THIRD YEARS, THREE-ON-ONE BATTLES.
LET'S GO, HARUTORA.
LUNCH BREAK - ZOKUSHO SHRINE GROUNDS
WHAT A DRAG...
TENMA IS DOWN BECAUSE HE LOST IN THE MOCK BATTLE THIS MORNING.
...SIIIIGHHH
SIGH
FIDGET
FIDGET
...
AND NATSUME AND TOJI HAVEN'T SAID A WORD EVEN THOUGH THEY WON...
LUNCH BOX
I TRIED TO JUST EAT MY LUNCH, BUT THEY'RE ALL SUCH DOWN-ERS...
I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL GO LOOK FOR KYOKO.
I told 'em I was heading to the bathroom...

THIS PLACE IS HUGE, THOUGH... WHERE DO I EVEN START?
THAT RE-MINDS ME.
I WONDER WHAT SUZUKA IS UP TO FOR LUNCH.
SHE SAT BY HER-SELF AT BREAK-FAST, TOO...
SHE MUST BE FEELING STRANGE AFTER OUR TALK LAST NIGHT OR SOMETHING, BECAUSE SHE AVOIDED US ALL MORNING, TOO.
ZOOM
ESPECIALLY KYOKO, FOR SOME REASON.
TOJI SAID KYOKO MUST HAVE DONE SOME-THING TO HER, BUT...
...I WONDER IF THEY'RE TOGETHER NOW?
IN THAT CASE...
THE LECTURE HALL IS PRETTY QUIET SO MAYBE...
SLIDE
HUH?

SENIOR?

TCH.
DID YOU JUST "TCH" ME?! AND WE DON'T EVEN MEET OFTEN!!

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO YOU HERE...


WAIT A SEC YOU--- !!
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW ME.
YOU KNOW, I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME!!
WHADDYA MEAN WHO? YOU BASICALLY JUST ANSWERED YOURSELF!
I DON'T KNOW ANY SONS FROM THE BRANCH HOUSE.
WHO ARE YOU?

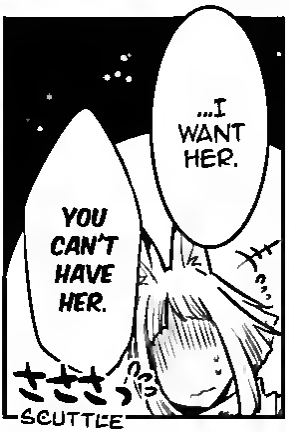
GO AWAY.
GRR, THIS SHOULDN'T EVEN MATTER BUT IT STILL KINDA TICKS ME OFF!
ムキー!!
GRRRR!!
TWITCH
MUMBLE
...KON.
YES!
POOF
HEY, KON.
LET'S DO OUR BEST THIS AFTERNOON, EH?
M-MASTER HARUTORA?
...
SHAKE
SHAKE
Alrrright!
C'MON, I'LL PET YOUR TAIL FOR OL' TIMES SAKE.
AHH, IT'S ALWAYS SO NICE AND FLUFFY, HUH?
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
MA... MASTER HARUTORA?
W-WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...?!
YANK

...OH, I RE-MEMBER NOW.
LONG TIME NO SEE, HARUTORA TSUCHI-MIKADO.
YEAH, LONG TIME NO SEE, SENIOR.
WELL THEN, I'LL JUST BE OFF NOW, LIKE YOU SAID.
WAIT A MOMENT.
SHRUG
WELL, ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANNA CHAT WITH ME NOW, SENIOR?
...YES
TALK... LET'S...
QUIVER
QUIVER-QUIVER
OH? BUT I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE TO GET ALL FRIENDLY-LIKE?
I... DON'T... MIND...
SHAKE-SHAKE
HEH HEH
USING A LITTLE GIRL AS BAIT...
...THAT'S LOW.
I win!
HUH? I DON'T RECALL SAYING I'D LET YOU PET HER TAIL...
FINE FINE, I'LL SETTLE FOR JUST THE TAIL, THEN.
NO WAY!! WHY ARE YOU SO INTO LITTLE GIRLS?!
WELL, WE'VE COME THIS FAR, SO YOU COULD AT LEAST LET ME TAKE HER...
HEY NOW, I'D SAY THE ONE WHO FALLS FOR IT IS JUST AS BAD.

RUMBLE
AHH, FINE!
I GOT IT, I GOT IT!
...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

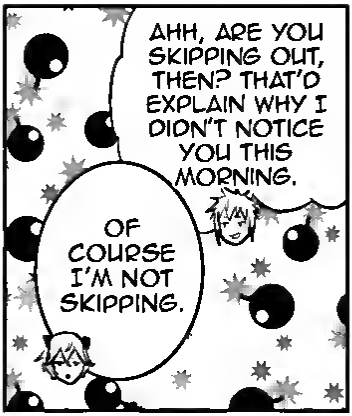
FWWWSH
CFWWWSH
FWWWSH

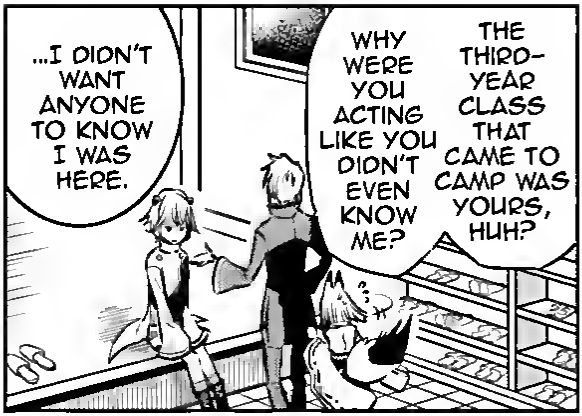
YOU CAN PET IT JUST A LITTLE.
RIGHT, KON?
YES ...
FWIP
Whoaaa

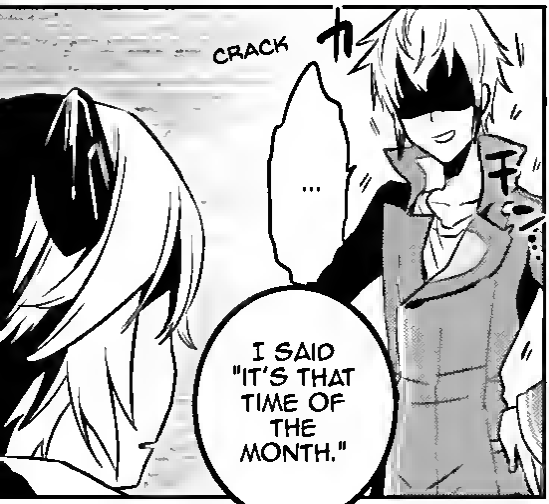

...I WANT HER.
YOU CAN'T HAVE HER.
SCUTTLE

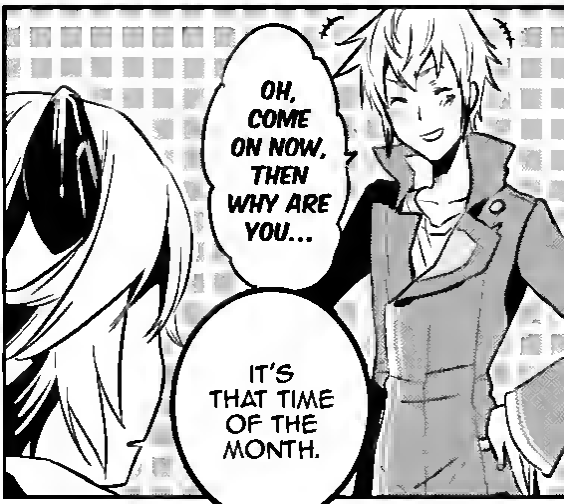
ANY-WAY...

...SIMPLY MAGNIFI-CENT.
...UH, YEAH... THANKS.


AHH, ARE YOU SKIPPING OUT, THEN? THAT'D EXPLAIN WHY I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU THIS MORNING.
OF COURSE I'M NOT SKIPPING.


...I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW I WAS HERE.
WHY WERE YOU ACTING LIKE YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME?
THE THIRD-YEAR CLASS THAT CAME TO CAMP WAS YOURS, HUH?

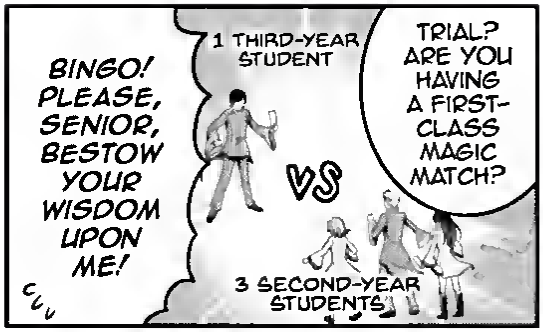

CRACK
...
I SAID "IT'S THAT TIME OF THE MONTH."

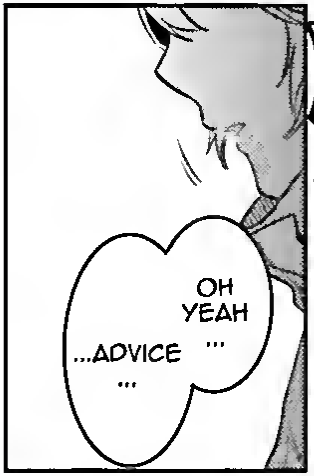

OH, COME ON NOW. THEN WHY ARE YOU...
IT'S THAT TIME OF THE MONTH.

DID YOU KNOW?
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!
WHOA, NOW! YUP, SO SORRY!
I'M HAVING MY PERI--
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
OKAY YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M SORRY.

ALL GIRLS HAVE THIS TIME EACH MONTH WHEN--
I KNOW, I KNOW!
I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS, BUT, UM--!!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO TAKE A BREAK HERE BY MYSELF ...
I'M SORRY! I'M VERY SORRY!
YOU HAD TO GO AND YELL AND EVERY-THING, MEANIE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M THE WORST. I'M REALLY SORRY!
おわおわ NO NO NO
おわおわ NO NO NO
HMPH
...PRUDE...
NGH?!
G... GWAH?!
STAB
SNAP!
WELL ?
WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT, THEN?
YA KNOW, I'M JUST GONNA...
WELL THEN, LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE FEMALE ANATO-MY--
OOOHH!
OH HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT? I HAVE A TRIAL THIS AFTER-NOON!
ANY ADVICE YOU COULD GIVE ME, O WISE SENIOR ?

HMM...


1 THIRD-YEAR STUDENT
TRIAL? ARE YOU HAVING A FIRST-CLASS MAGIC MATCH?
VS
3 SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS
BINGO! PLEASE, SENIOR, BESTOW YOUR WISDOM UPON ME!


...ADVICE ...
OH YEAH ...

I'M STARTING, TO THINK YOU'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN!
NO WONDER YOU DON'T GET ANY, YOU PRUDE ...
YOU'RE REALLY TOO BRUTAL, YOU KNOW?!
IF YOUR OPPONENT IS A GIRL, JUST TRY AND SHOOT FOR "THAT TIME."

I'M BEING SERIOUS.
...I'M SURE IT'LL HELP ...
WON-DERFUL ADVICE ...
...WHOA.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT?

MAGIC IS JUST MADE OF "PATTERNS."
THE RULES THAT MAKE UP THE BASE OF EVERY-THING.
ALL IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO IS THE "ORDERING" OF THINGS.

WHAA ?
FAMILIARS ARE A GOOD EXAMPLE.

HUH? REALLY?
YES.

FAMILIARS ARE JUST A MAGICAL "FORMULA."
THAT KIND OF "FORMULA" ...
...IS NOT REALLY ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE ADDITIONS OR SUBTRACTIONS YOU MAKE IN MATH.

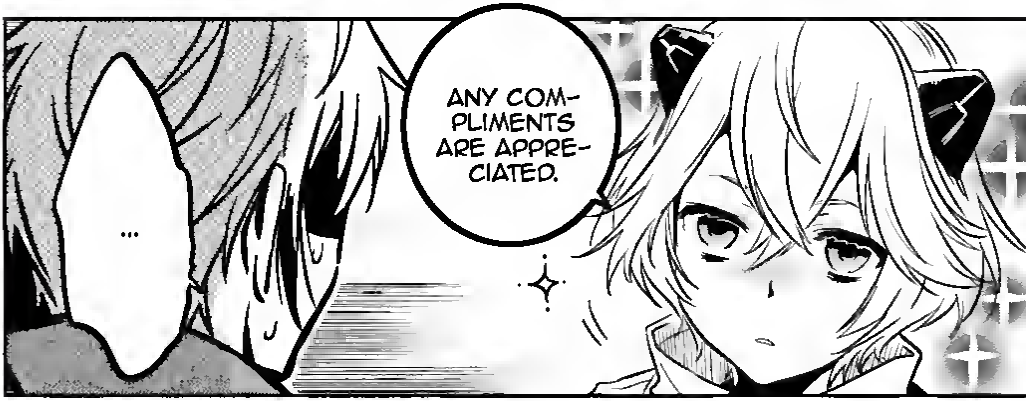
THOUGH THE LOGIC BEHIND IT ALL IS DIFFERENT...
...THE FACT THAT THERE ARE "RULES" DOESN'T CHANGE.
?.?.
B-BUT...
...IT SEEMS LIKE YOU MIGHT BE MAKING A BIT OF A STRETCH...
YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE, RIGHT?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ALL OF ITS MECHANISMS?
OF COURSE NOT...
BUT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE "MECHANISMS" AT WORK, RIGHT?
FAMILIARS ARE THE SAME.
AND IN FACT, HUMANS ARE THE SAME, TOO.

LOOKING AT THE VERY FOUNDATION OF HUMANS AS A "MECHANISM"...
...IS THE VERY CORE OF MAGIC ITSELF.
MAGIC IS...
...COMMANDING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN...
...UNDERSTANDING AND NOT UNDERSTANDING THIS "MECHANISM."
I WAS BLOWN AWAY...
I NEVER EXPECTED HER...
...TO DELIVER A LINE LIKE THIS.
B-BUT THEN, SENIOR ...
IF MAGIC IS COMPRISED OF LAWS AND MECHANISMS...
...THEN DOESN'T THAT THROW OFF YOUR ADVICE TO JUST DO AS I PLEASE?
IT DOES, DOESN'T IT.

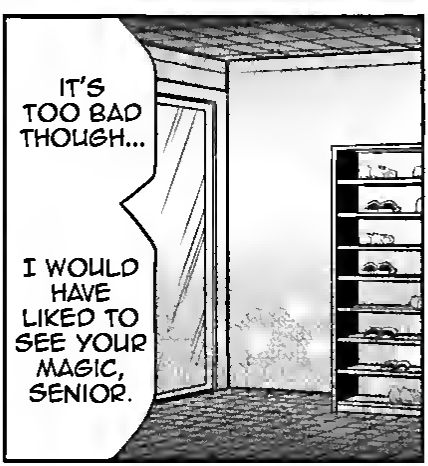
BUT THAT IS WHAT MAGIC IS.
THE UNIQUE POINT OF MAGIC'S "LAWS"...
...IS COMPREHENDING EVEN ITS INCONSISTENCIES, THEN CREATING VERSATILITY AND FLEXIBILITY FROM IT.
UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE INCONSISTENCIES ARE PART OF THE "MECHANISM" OF MAGIC...
...IS BOTH THE MOST DIFFICULT AND MOST INTERESTING PART OF IT.
BUT I DO REMEMBER MR. OTOMO SAYING SOMETHING SIMILAR BEFORE.
DEFINITELY ADVICE WAY BEYOND MY LEVEL.
TO BE HONEST, IT WAS TOO COMPLEX FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND.
...
ぽふぃ
DUHHHHH...

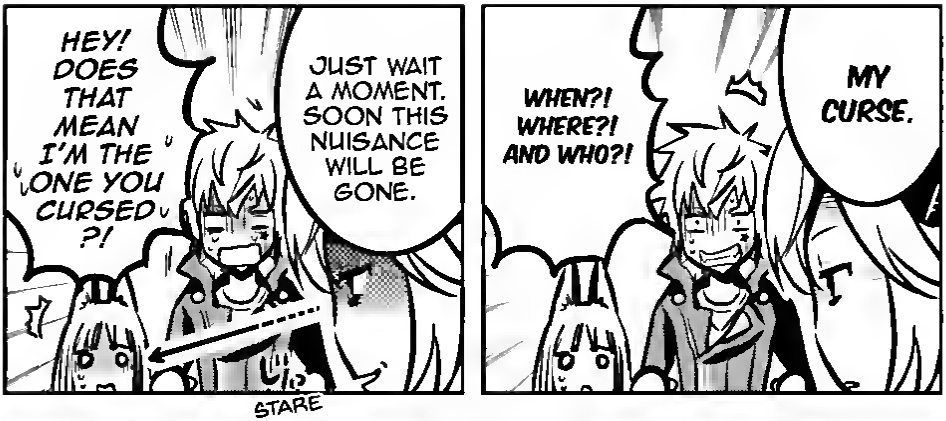
...
THANKS A LOT.
THIRD YEARS REALLY ARE...
...ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL

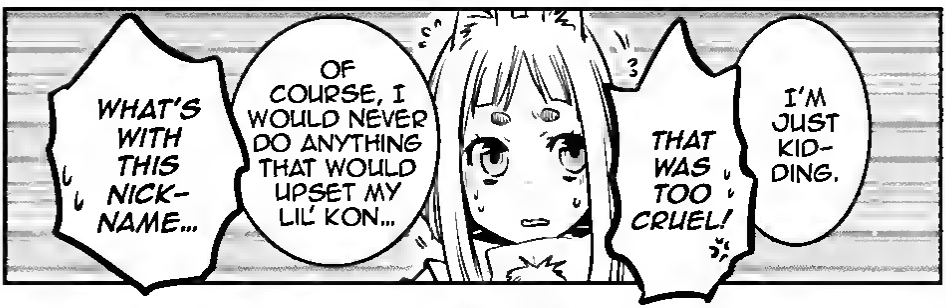
I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST TRYING TO CONFUSE AND STALL US, BUT...
...TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF APPLICATION.
JUST THINK FREELY AND FIGHT.


...
ANY COMPLIMENTS ARE APPRECIATED.

YOU MEAN YOUR STEALTH FROM BEFORE?
WHA? OH.
I'VE ALREADY SHOWN YOU.


IT'S TOO BAD THOUGH...
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE YOUR MAGIC, SENIOR.

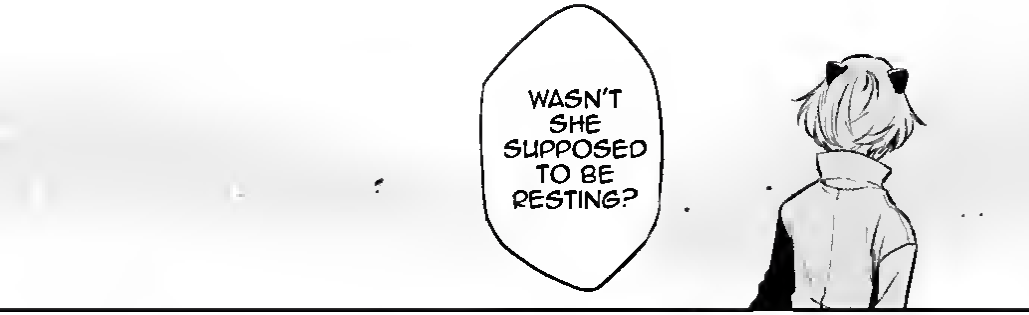

HEY! DOES THAT MEAN I'M THE ONE YOU CURSED?!
JUST WAIT A MOMENT. SOON THIS NUISANCE WILL BE GONE.
STARE
WHEN?! WHERE?! AND WHO?!
MY CURSE.


WHAT'S WITH THIS NICK-NAME...
OF COURSE, I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD UPSET MY LIL' KON...
THAT WAS TOO CRUEL!
I'M JUST KID-DING.

I AM DEFINITELY NOT TAKING YOU AS A FAMILIAR!
STARE
JUST BE PATIENT.
SOON. I WILL JOIN WITH THIS GUY, AND THEN, WE'LL BE TOGETHER, MY LIL' KON...

ANYWAY, I BETTER GET GOING.

SEE YOU.
ALL RIGHT, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO NOW.
SEE YOU LATER, MASTÉ --
THANK YOU FOR THE ADVICE.
YES YES.
FWOOSH
TIP TAP
TIP TAP
TIP TAP
HM...?
PHEEEEWWW...


WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING?

OUR TEAM WON AN EASY VICTORY OVER OUR THIRD-YEAR OPPONENT IN THE AFTER-NOON.
Hiyyaaaa!!
うるさ あああ!!
Nice, Tsucchi!!
USING THE ANGER FROM HAVING BEEN TRICKED WORKED OUT FOR THE TRIAL, IN THE END.

THUMP
THUMP
T-TOJI!
PACKING FOR HOME.

OHH...
HUH?
H-H-HAVE YOU SEEN HARU-TORA?!
FINISHED PACKING FOR HOME ALREADY --
HEY, NATSU-ME.
...FIGURE OUT HOW HE FEELS... OKAY?!
J-JUST... YOU KNOW...
BUT, NO, NOT CONFESS, BUT...
YOU FORGOT ALREADY?
YOU WERE GONNA CONFESS TO HIM, YEAH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
BLUSH
OH.
YOU REALIZE YOU'LL HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN ON THE BUS RIDE HOME?
...
...SO I DEFI-NITELY COULDN'T DO IT THEN...!
BESIDES, YOU KNOW, WE HAD CLASSES AND STUFF AFTER...
BUT IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE, RIGHT?!
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SUP-POSED TO DO IT THIS MORN-

KYOKO WAS TAKING HIM SOMEWHERE, I THINK.
THEY WENT OUTSIDE.
WHERE?!
...HARUTORA WAS AROUND EARLIER.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WITH KYOKO?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SHE DID SEEM A BIT STRANGE TODAY...
BACK WHEN HARUTORA ENTERED THIS SCHOOL...
...I REMEMBER...
...SHE DID ACCUSE HARUTORA OF FALLING FOR HER...
...!!
そわ TWINGE
そわ TWINGE
そわ TWINGE

I-I-I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR HARU-TORA!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE ALWAYS LIKED...Y--
COOL, GOOD LUCK.
ばっ
UWAAAHH!!
っっ!!
AND YOU'RE GONNA HELP!
いっ!!
YOINK
What's with them?
なんだ
なんだ
ずるる
ずるるる
DRAG
BE-CAUSE I SAID SO!
W-WHAT? WHY ME--

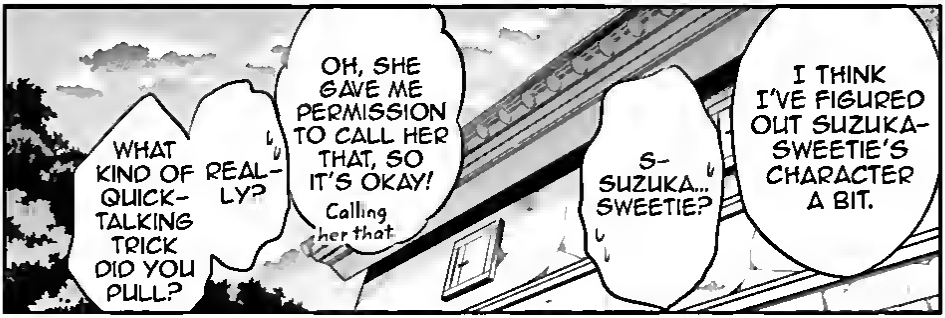
SWISH
HEY, KYOKO...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...HARU-TORA.
END OF CHAPTER 40

Chapter 11
Identity

SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT ALL OF A SUD-DEN...
...HARU-TORA.
IT'S FINE.
IS THIS ABOUT SUZUKA?
WOW, THAT'S UNLIKE YOU TO BE SO ON POINT.
YEAH, YEAH.
DID...
...SOME-THING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO?

Tehe
WELL, WE CHATTED A BIT TOGETHER AFTER EVERYTHING LAST NIGHT.
GIRL TALK, RIGHT?
G-GIRL TALK?
With her?
YEAH.
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S KINDA GOTTEN SICK OF ME BECAUSE OF IT THOUGH.
ZOOM
WAS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?
SHE WAS REALLY DOING HER BEST TO AVOID YOU TODAY.
SOUNDS LIKE THAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WE'RE WORKIN' TOWARDS.
WELL, I MEAN, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BECOME BEST FRIENDS RIGHT AWAY OR ANYTHING.
THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME TO PLAY CATCH-UP.
BUT YOU'VE GOTTA BE FORCEFUL WITH THAT KIND OF GIRL...
...IF YOU WANNA GET CLOSE.
IF YOU WANT HER TO LET YOU IN.
LET YOU IN?

YEP.
IN HER HEART.
WOW...
NOTHING GETS BY THIS GIRL, HUH.
IMPRESSED
AND SO...


I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT SUZUKA-SWEETIE'S CHARACTER A BIT.
S-SUZUKA... SWEETIE?
OH, SHE GAVE ME PERMISSION TO CALL HER THAT, SO IT'S OKAY!
Calling her that
REAL-LY?
WHAT KIND OF QUICK-TALKING TRICK DID YOU PULL?

SEE, FIRST YOU LAY INTO 'EM AND COME OFF WAY TOO STRONG...
Teehee
...AND THEN YOU EASE UP A BIT, SO THEY THINK THEY'VE WON.
...
URGH...
AND, WELL ...
...THE KEY TO GETTING SUZUKA-SWEETIE TO WORK WITH US...

POINT
M-ME?
IT'S IN YOUR HANDS!
...IS YOU, HARU-TORA.
I CAN'T TELL IF SHE WAS BEING SERIOUS OR NOT THOUGH...
I MEAN, SUZUKA EVEN SAID SHE HATES NATSUME.
I REALLY DON'T THINK SUZUKA AND NATSUME ARE COMPATIBLE WITH EACH OTHER.
BUT IT WILL PROB-ABLY TAKE A LONG, LONG TIME.
AND IN THE END, I'M SURE WE'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET THEM TOGETH-ER.
I THINK BOTH OF THEM ARE REALLY HONEST DEEP DOWN.
Y-YEAH...
AND NATSUME CAN BE PRETTY SHY AND ALL...
SUZUKA IS REALLY OBSTINATE THOUGH, SO I'M NOT SURE SHE'D BE WILLING TO COMPRO-MISE.

BUT... I ALSO DON'T WANT TO SEE SUZUKA-SWEETIE GOING OFF ON HER EITHER.
AND AFTER OUR TALK LAST NIGHT I THINK WE REALLY NEED TO BUILD A BETTER RELATION-SHIP, RIGHT?
...I DON'T REALLY LIKE RUNNING AROUND BEHIND THE SCENES LIKE THIS.
THOUGH REALLY ...
YEAH...
LET'S JUST LEAVE THOSE TWO BE...
...AND FOCUS ON THE REST OF US GETTING ALONG WITH SUZUKA, RIGHT?
I KINDA LET HER SET THE PACE UP TILL NOW, BUT...
I'LL TRY TO SEEK HER OUT AND TALK TO HER, TOO.
I'M KINDA GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT...
I'LL PROBABLY WIND UP IN ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE NO MATTER WHAT, SO...
SIGH
ABOUT THAT...

THERE'S ONE THING I JUST WANT TO SET STRAIGHT RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
WHAT'S THAT?
WELL ...
...HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SUZUKA?
HOW DO I... FEEL?

DO YOU LIKE HER?
PFFFT!!

EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS THINKS YOU TWO ARE A COUPLE.
YOU'RE HER "DARLING," AFTER ALL.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT?!
WHAT?
IT'S A PRETTY STRAIGHT-FORWARD QUESTION, RIGHT?

COME ON, YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S LIKE, DON'T YOU?
SHE'S JUST PICKING ON ME.
SHE ENJOYS MOCKING ME!
...DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT?
...
SHE EVEN SAID SO HERSELF!
ムキ
GRRRR!!
I SEE...
Sigh.
SO THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GETTING STUCK, HUH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Hm?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

SIGH
STUPID-TORA...
WHA?!
STAB
ALL RIGHT, HARUTORA.
I JUST TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE THE "KEY," RIGHT?
STRAIGHT FROM HER MOUTH...
...WHEN I ASKED ABOUT YOU SHE SAID...

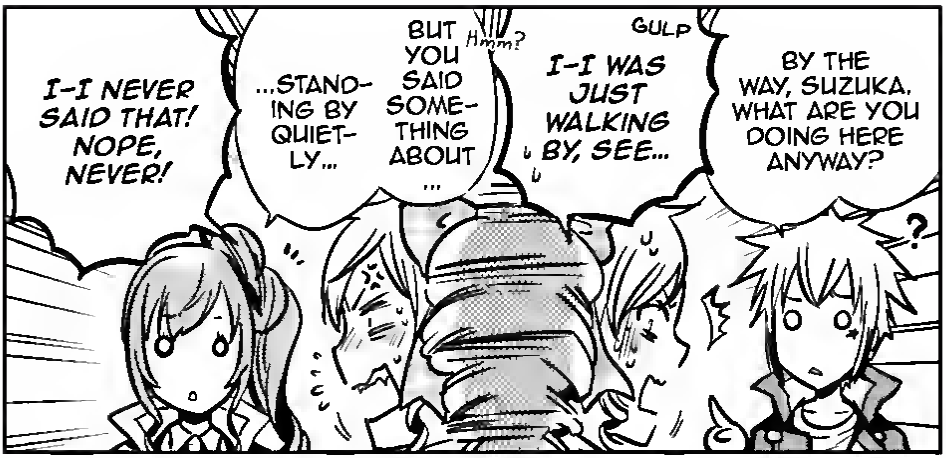
SLIIIIIDE
SHE LIK--
HOLD IT THERE, YOU BIG-BOOBIED WOMAN!
YIKES!
MASTER HARU-TORA!
?!
GASP
YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST STAND BY QUIETLY AS YOU BLAB ON LIKE THAT?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
GASP

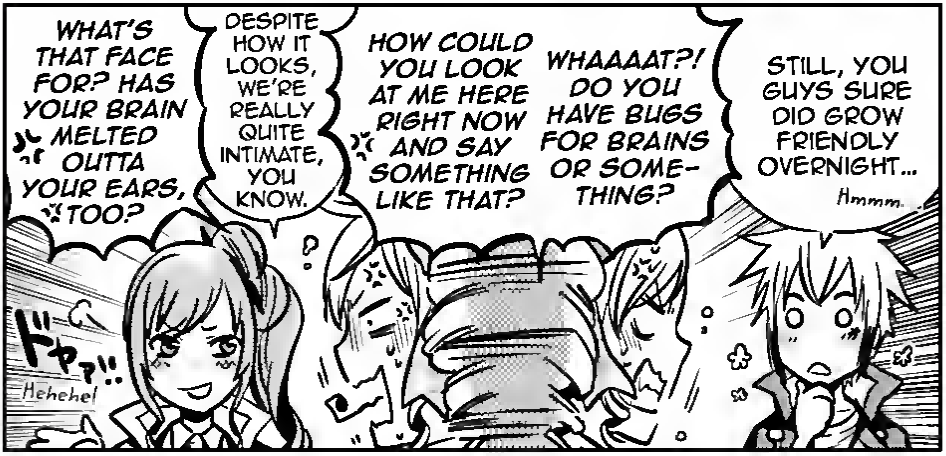
IDIOT! DOOFUS!
JUST HURRY UP AND DIE!!
ぶんぶんぶんぶんぶんぶん
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SPITTING OUT ALL THIS NONSENSE?!

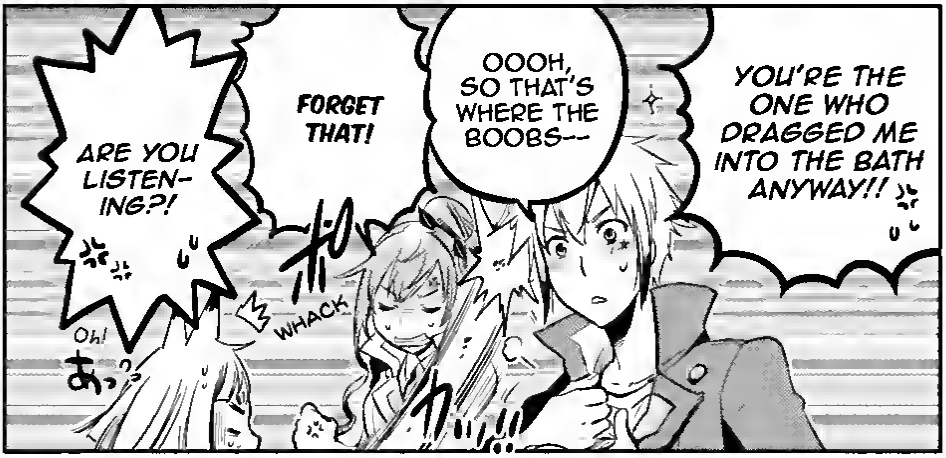
Ehehehe
あちゃー
YOU--
YOU STUPID HUSSY!
ぽかん
Duhhhhh...

YAP!
キャン
キャン
YAP!
YAP!
キャン
BIG DOG
VS
SMALL DOG
I DON'T NEED YOUR APOLOGIES, JUST DIE ALREADY!
SERI-OUSLY!
...

SHUT IT! MAN, YOU'RE IRRITAT-ING!
I SUPPOSE I WENT A LITTLE FAR THOUGH... SORRY!
SORRY, I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOUR FEELINGS IGNORED IS ALL.
BOW
STOMP
STOMP

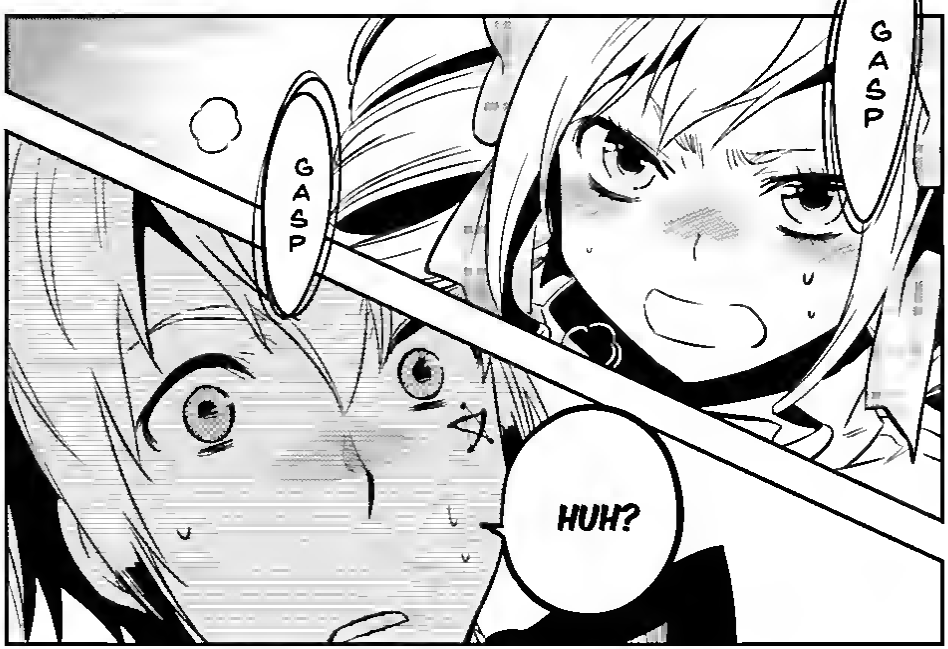

I-I NEVER SAID THAT! NOPE, NEVER!
...STANDING BY QUIETLY...
BUT YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT...
Hmm?
I-I WAS JUST WALKING BY, SEE...
GULP
BY THE WAY, SUZUKA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?


WHAT'S THAT FACE FOR? HAS YOUR BRAIN MELTED OUTTA YOUR EARS, TOO?
DESPITE HOW IT LOOKS, WE'RE REALLY QUITE INTIMATE, YOU KNOW.
Hehehe!
HOW COULD YOU LOOK AT ME HERE RIGHT NOW AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WHAAAAT?! DO YOU HAVE BUGS FOR BRAINS OR SOMETHING?
STILL, YOU GUYS SURE DID GROW FRIENDLY OVERNIGHT...
Hmmm...

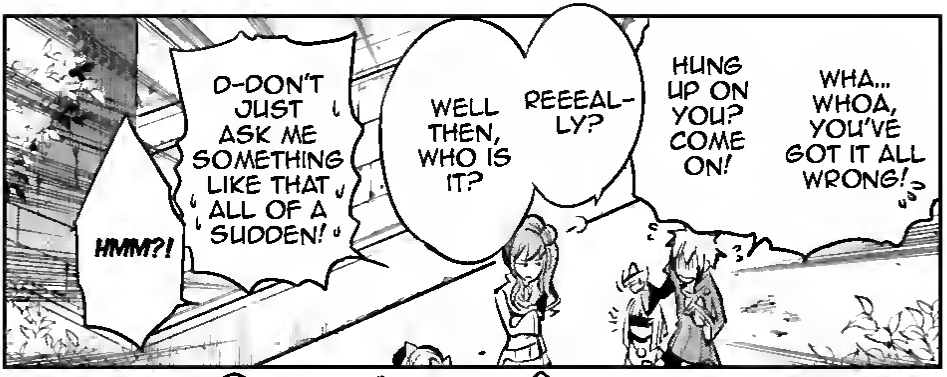

ARE YOU LISTENING?!
FORGET THAT!
OOOH, SO THAT'S WHERE THE BOOBS--
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DRAGGED ME INTO THE BATH ANYWAY!!
WHACK
Oh!

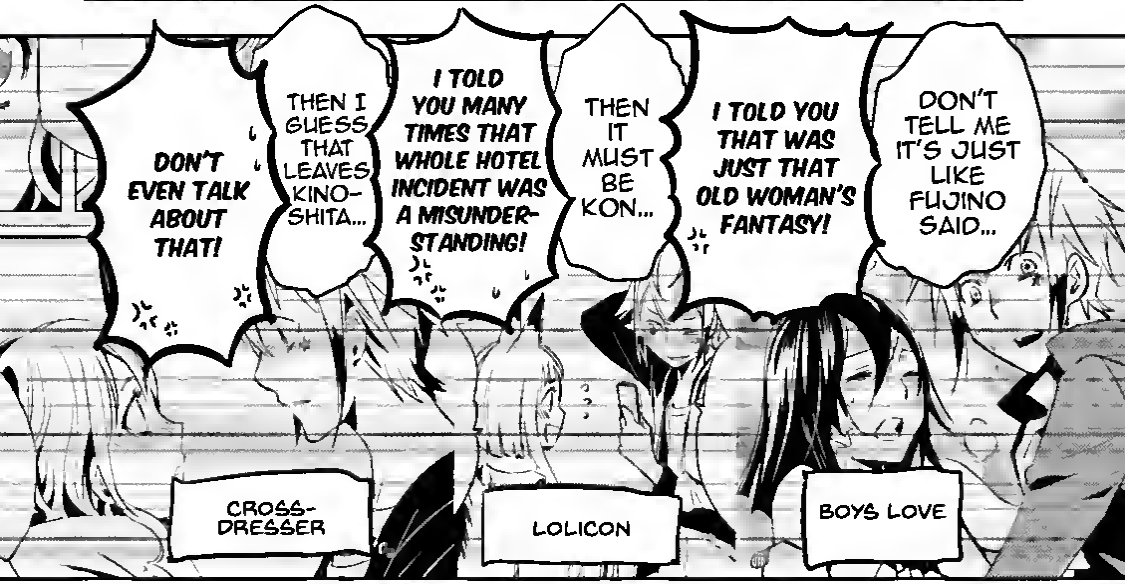
MGRRRAARRR!!
YOU JERKS...
...NEED TO...
...LISTEN...
...WHEN SOMEONE IS TALKING!!
SHRIEK
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU OVER AND OVER...
...THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING FRIENDLY, RIGHT?!
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
SO, WHY? WHY DO YOU KEEP DOING THIS?
YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME, SO YOU SHOULD AT LEAST KNOW HOW TO LISTEN!
SHRIEK
AND JUST TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT, EVERYTHING YOU WERE JUST BLABBERING ABOUT...
CRACKLE!!
...WAS JUST LIKE HE SAID, JUST POKING FUN, GOT IT?!
PLUS, I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY!

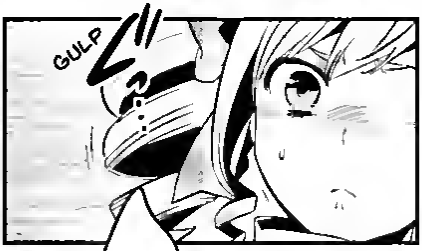
THIS BLUBBERING IDIOT HAS SOMEONE HE LIKES ALREADY!
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN PICKING ON HIM!
TWITCH


GASP
GASP
HUH?

STARE
じ
TREMBLE
きょど
TREMBLE
きょど
HMM...
...LOOKS LIKE YOU WEREN'T WRONG ABOUT THAT.
HUH..?
WHA?
I..
きょど
きょど
TREMBLE
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL HUNG UP ON ME?
...YOU'VE HAD A CRUSH ON ME FROM THE BEGINNING, RIGHT?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
あわ
UM, WA--
WAIT A SEC, KYOKO.
あわ
あわ
PANICKED
I'VE ALREADY GOT SOMEONE OF MY OWN, AFTER ALL.
I TURNED YOU DOWN FLAT BEFORE, DIDN'T I?
WHAT?
HUH...
?!
わっ
FWOOSH


HMM?!
D-DON'T JUST ASK ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WELL THEN, WHO IS IT?
REEEALLY?
HUNG UP ON YOU? COME ON!
WHA... WHOA, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!


DON'T EVEN TALK ABOUT THAT!
THEN I GUESS THAT LEAVES KINOSHITA...
I TOLD YOU MANY TIMES THAT WHOLE HOTEL INCIDENT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING!
THEN IT MUST BE KON...
I TOLD YOU THAT WAS JUST THAT OLD WOMAN'S FANTASY!
DON'T TELL ME IT'S JUST LIKE FUJINO SAID...
CROSS-DRESSER
LOLICON
BOYS LOVE


GULP

...WHAT THE HELL.

WHOA, HEY!
WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO BE LIKING? ARE YOU SURE THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU MADE UP??
F-FOR STARTERS, SUZUKA.

YOU CAN'T HIDE IT FROM ME.
THAT FAMILIAR... LAST SUMMER.
YOU LIKED HER, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, SMILING LIKE AN IDIOT.
YOU SAID THAT SHE WAS REALLY STILL ALIVE!
THAT THE MAGE...
...THE "REAL HOKUTO," WAS STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE.
FLUSH
OH...
HOKUTO? WHO'S THAT?
NATSUME'S FAMILIAR HAS THE SAME NAME, BUT...
...

THIS IS EMBARRASSING.
OH, THAT...
THIS IS BAD...
...BUT...
...I SAID I WOULD COME STRAIGHT OUT...
WELL, YOU SEE...
...AND SAY EVERYTHING.
AND SO...
I STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHO IT TRULY WAS.
OR WHY OR HOW THEY APPEARED.
BUT...

I STILL BELIEVE...
NO, I KNOW...
...THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER CONNECTING THE TWO OF US.
THAT'S WHY I STILL FEEL LIKE I WANT TO MEET HER AGAIN.
JUST TO MEET...
...AND TALK...
...AND TO SEE HER SMILING FACE.
THAT'S ALL I WANT.
MAS-TER HARU-TORA ...
...SEE?
THAT'S WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.

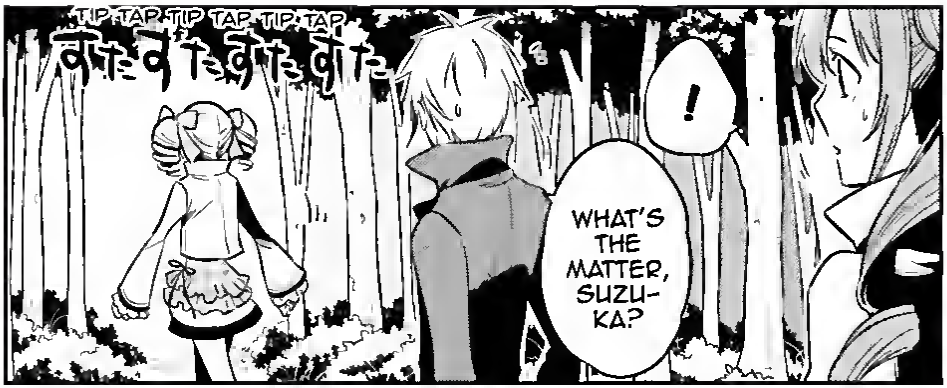
I KNEW RIGHT FROM THE START.
THAT YOU WERE SOME NO-PRINCIPLE DOOFUS WHO FELL FOR A FAMILIAR.
YOU'RE BEYOND HELP ...
I GET EVERY-THING...
...BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
DO YOU "LIKE" THE MAGE WHO COTROLLED THAT FAMILIAR?
DO YOU HAVE ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR THEM?
WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!
IT TOOK A LOT JUST TO GET THAT OFF MY CHEST, OKAY?
WELL, HOW ABOUT IT?
I...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WE WERE CLOSE FRIENDS.
BUT IN THE END, A WHOLE LOT HAP-PENED AND...
WELL, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE.
SO EVEN IF YOU ASK ME ABOUT OUR RELATION-SHIP...

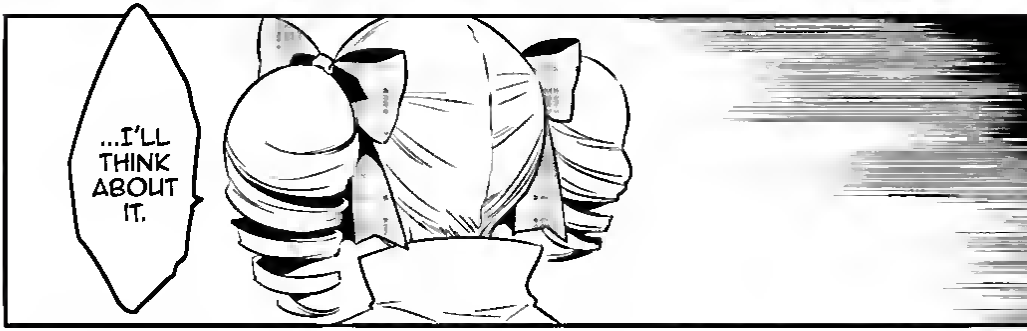
BUT I MEAN, I WON'T REALLY KNOW UNLESS I SEE HER AGAIN, RIGHT?
BLUSH
...I LIKE HER.
PROB-ABLY.
BLUNT
WELL ...?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
GAH...
THAT'S REALLY ALL THAT I HAVE TO SAY...
FROM THERE, I...
ANY-WAY...
...I'D LIKE TO MEET HER AGAIN.
SHUT UP!
MY MY, HOW ROMANTIC...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN FROM THERE UNTIL IT HAPPENS!

HM... BUT REALLY...
...WHO DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE?
IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, THE MAGIC USER MUST BE SOMEONE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, RIGHT?
EVEN TENMA SAID IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS THE MAGE WAS A PRO...
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY. IT'S DEFINITELY SOMEONE SKILLED.
JUST LOOKING AT THE PEOPLE AROUND US...
...THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD DO IT IS NATSUME, RIGHT?
HE'S PROBABLY THE ONLY CAPABLE OF IT.
FLINCH
!!
WHAAAT?

Pffft!!
AHA HAHA!
BWA HAHAHA!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS, KYOKO!
THERE'S NO WAY NATSUME WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, WHY WOULD HE?
GAHAHAHA
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BURN YOUR OWN BRIDGES?
You dummy
ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT HE'S PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WE KNOW WHO COULD.
Hmm?
あれ？
...
Hmmm??
あれ？？
Whew.
RIGHT, RIGHT, SORRY.
Hahaaa.
SAYING NATSUME AND HOKUTO ARE THE SAME PERSON!
BUT THAT ONE SURE CAME OUT OF NO-WHERE.
OH MAN, JUST IMAGINE THAT!
UMM...
ARE YOU SAYING...

...THAT, WELL...
...EVEN IF YOU "KNEW" THAT WAS THE CASE, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT?
WHA?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T THINK I FOLLOW ...?
?
?
...
?
?
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
AH, WHO CARES. SO, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT, AGAIN?
YOU AND SUZUKA-SWEETIE'S RELATION-SHIP...
OH, RIGHT.
BUT YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, RIGHT, KYOKO?
Y- YEAH...
hii
SPIN

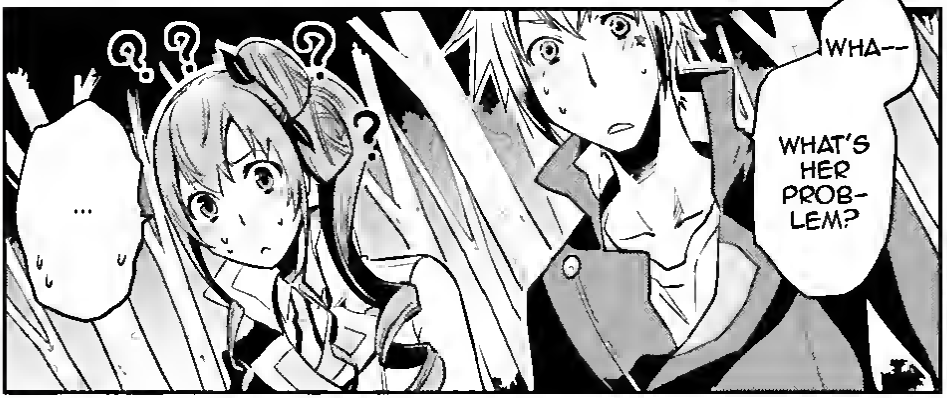

TIP TAP TIP TAP TIP TAP
!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUZUKA?

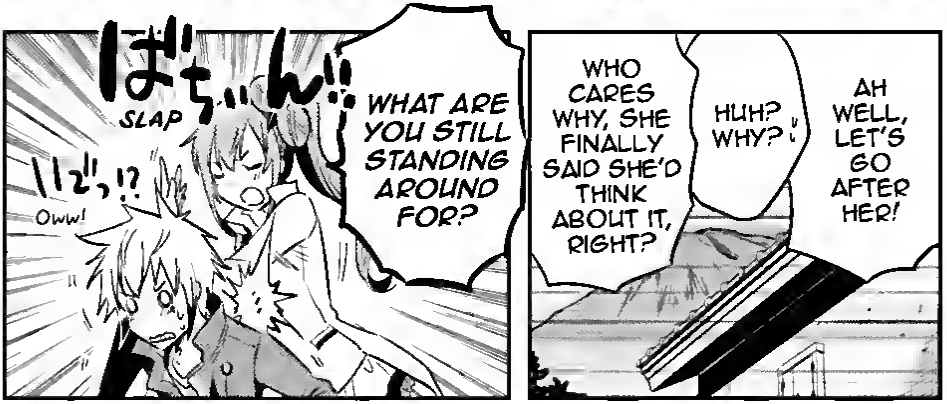

...I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

I'M...
I'M JUST THINKING THOUGH, OKAY?
!!
WHIRL

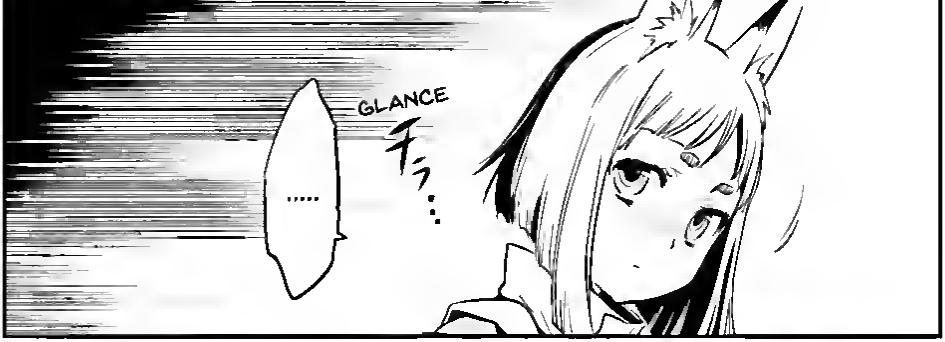
I'M SICK OF YOU GUYS GOSSIPING BEHIND MY BACK...
HUH?
SO I'M TELLING YOU THAT I'LL RE-THINK YOUR PROPOSAL FROM LAST NIGHT!

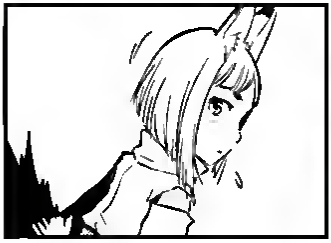
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP


WHA--
WHAT'S HER PROB-LEM?
...

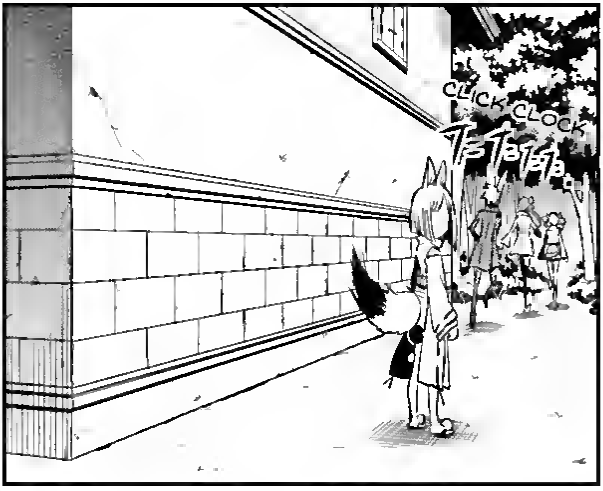

AH WELL, LET'S GO AFTER HER!
HUH? WHY?
WHO CARES WHY, SHE FINALLY SAID SHE'D THINK ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
SLAP
WHAT ARE YOU STILL STANDING AROUND FOR?
Oww!

OH.
OKAY ...
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP

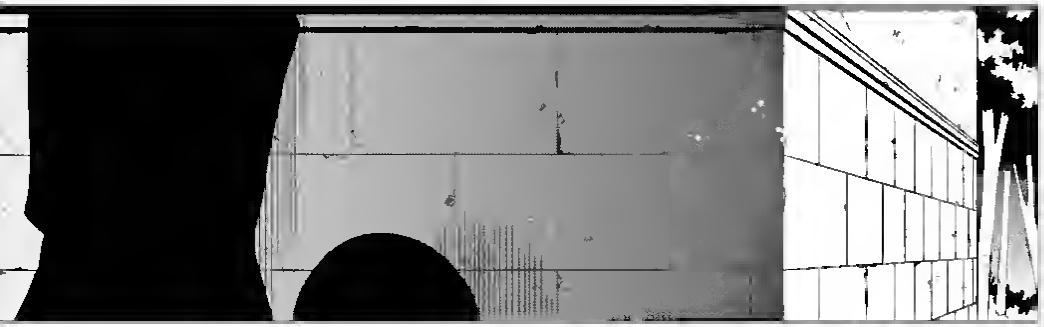

GLANCE
チラ…
.....



Poof
000


CLICK-CLOCK
トコトコ

Wait up, Suzuka-sweetieee!



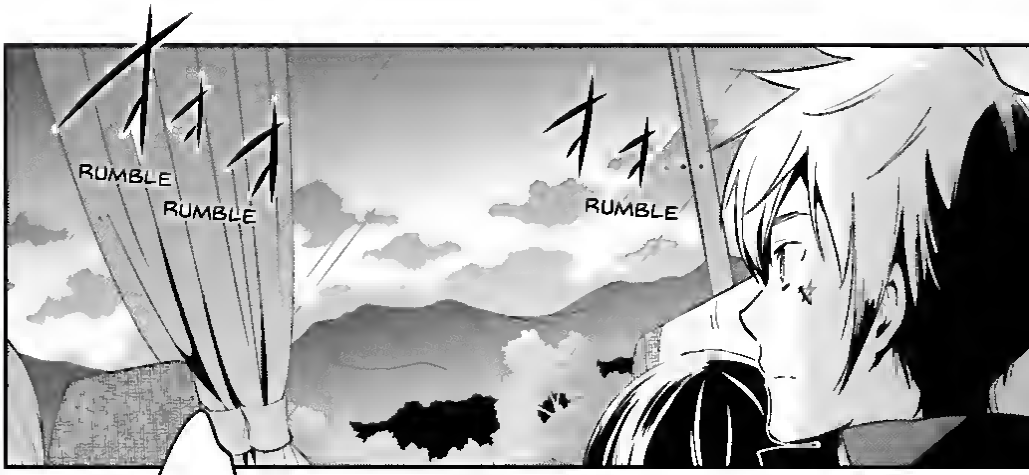
DAM-
MIT...
STUPID-
TORA...

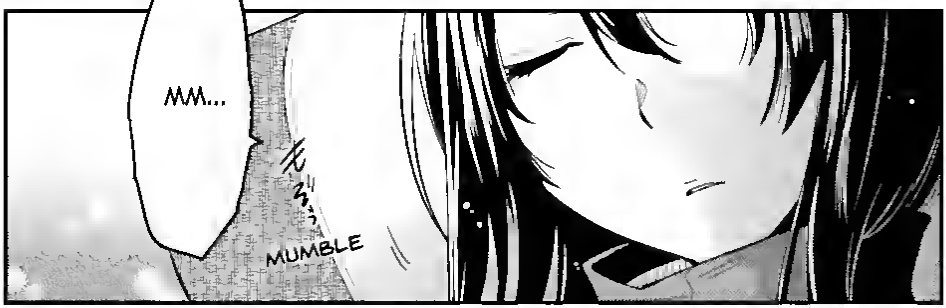
VROOM
VROOM
VROOM
NNNN...
NNNN...
CLATTER
MRMM...
FWSHHH...
HM...

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
...
ZZZ
ZZZZ...

SHE WAS ACTING ALL WEIRD WHEN WE SAT DOWN.
SOB
SLUMP
N-NATSU-ME...

WOMEN IN GENERAL...
...THEY'RE MYSTERIES ALL ACROSS THE BOARD.
I GUESS...
...SHE'S PRETTY MYSTERI-OUS, TOO...
ZZZ


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


MM...
MUMBLE

SLIP
OH.
MRMM...
FWUMP
Phew

HM...
I GUESS I'LL JUST WAIT TILL SHE WAKES UP.
...
SNATCH
GOT-CHA...
I THOUGHT IT MUST BE SOMETHING SPECIAL...
...SHE'S ALWAYS WEARING IT.
THIS RIBBON THOUGH ...
...BUT NOW THAT I LOOK AT IT, IT LOOKS PRETTY CHEAP.
LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D WRAP AROUND A GIFT...
A PINK...
...HUH?

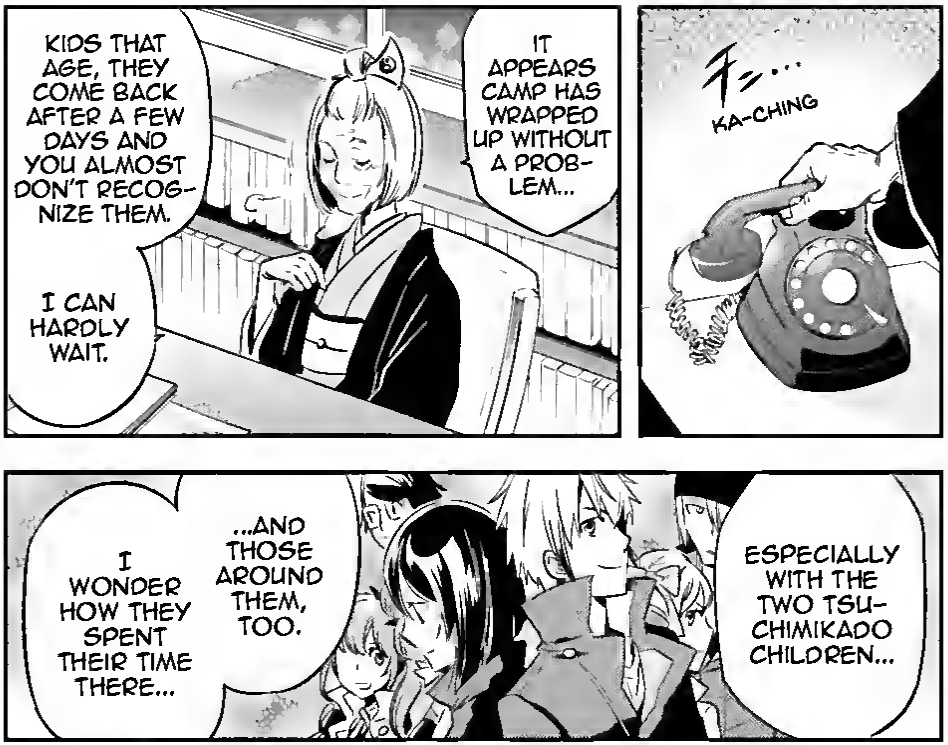
IT'S CUTE, ISN'T IT?
NO...
BUT...
TELL ME IT'S CUTE!!
...?!

SWFFF
I WIN!
THERE'S NO WAY...
...RIGHT?

I WIN!
THERE'S NO WAY...
...RIGHT?

SWFFF

ZZZ...
NGGHH...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
IS THAT SO? WELL, THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
PLEASE TRAVEL BACK SAFELY, ALL RIGHT?


KIDS THAT AGE, THEY COME BACK AFTER A FEW DAYS AND YOU ALMOST DON'T RECOGNIZE THEM.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT.
IT APPEARS CAMP HAS WRAPPED UP WITHOUT A PROBLEM...
チン…
KA-CHING
I WONDER HOW THEY SPENT THEIR TIME THERE...
...AND THOSE AROUND THEM, TOO.
ESPECIALLY WITH THE TWO TSUCHIMIKADO CHILDREN...
"A TOTAL ECLIPSE HAS FALLEN OVER YOUR STAR."
I SUPPOSE IT'S ABOUT TIME I DID ANYWAY.
I'LL HAVE TO LEND THEM A HAND MYSELF...
...

AND THE REST I SHALL ENTRUST TO YOU, MR. OTOMO.
AFTER ALL...
...IT LOOKS LIKE...
...I'LL HAVE EVEN LESS TIME THAN I IMAGINED...
END OF CHAPTER 41

AFTERWORD

THIS IS VOLUME 8! HELLO, I'M SUZUMI. THIS IS THE EIGHTH VOLUME. EVERYTHING'S GONE BY SO FAST... NO, BUT REALLY... IT'S BEEN SUPER FAST... ALL THE COMICS I'VE EVER WORKED ON HAVE ONLY GONE TO 8 VOLUMES, SO UP NEXT IS NEW TERRITORY WITH VOLUME 9! AND THEN VOLUME 10... I WONDER IF I CAN EVEN MAKE IT... IT'S JUST A PERSONAL NOTE, BUT MY DAUGHTER WAS JUST BORN. AND NOW I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ALL SORTS OF NEW MOTIVATION. PLEASE KEEP ON READING! THE ANIME HAS ALSO SUCCESSFULLY MADE IT TO SATELLITE BROADCAST, AND I'M REALLY PLEASED. I JUST WANT TO SAY THANKS AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU THAT SUPPORT US! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING! HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME! 11/2013, ATSUSHI SUZUMI

STAFF & HELP
INAGI KAZAMORI + K.K. + KODAMA + HANA HIRATOKI
YOU ALL REALLY HELPED ME OUT THIS TIME AROUND, TOO...! THANKS!

TOKYO RAVENS
Volume 8

KADOKAWA MANGA

Story by
Kouhei Azano

Art by
Atsushi Suzumi

Character Design by
Sumihei

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KADOKAWA CORPORATION
2-13-3 Fujimi Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, 102-8177 JAPAN

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